The second project in my AP Computer Science A class was an assignment to code Blackjack as a text game in Java. At this point in time, I was still pretty new to coding and figuring out what to separate classes and methods for was still difficult for me to wrap my head around. There were a lot of problems that arose while I was trying to code Blackjack. There were several moments where I wanted to give up and was very frustrated with the project. However, instead of giving up, I kept at it, embracing the challenge. When I finally completed coding Blackjack, there was a moment where it felt like how to organize classes "clicked", and I expanded beyond Blackjack into making it one option offered in a casino hub where players could redeem prizes. This was beyond the scope of the assignment, and I was given bonus points for it. This experience taught me the value of perseverance and adaptability.

Perseverance is the foundation of my work ethic. Before this project, school had always come easy to me yet this experience taught me that success is not always quick and easy. Instead of shying away from challenges, going at them head-on and persevering is the solution. Difficulties and setbacks are inevitable regardless of what the task is. My ability to persist and stay focused with a positive attitude allows me to improve myself from difficulties rather than letting them be negative obstacles. I believe that perseverance leads to growth.

Adaptability also goes hand in hand with my perseverance. Throughout the Blackjack project, I had to try several different approaches to handle different problems that arose. When one idea did not work, I looked for a new angle to solve the issue. Different classes at the University of Pittsburgh also teach unique problems with different programming languages. Of course, these problems cannot be approached with the same thought process each time. It was necessary for me to learn to be flexible with my thinking to understand the solutions to solving these problems. Being adaptable lets me appreciate difficulties and not only their solutions, but the process of arriving at them.

These qualities–perseverance and adaptability–guide my approach to work and form the foundation of my work ethic. I am confident in my ability to perform well as a software engineer and frontend developer that extends from my knowledge and growth from learning Computer Science at the University of Pittsburgh.