

Year 1 Personal Tutorials & #CreativeCoding Commentary Task

Short Story - Must Read ...

Context - Reminder

You'll remember that as part of last term's [#CreativeCoding](#) activity students have been asked to produce ...



A Processing sketch
that depicts a data set that they have collected over time
that explores some aspect of the World
that is interesting to them

Hopefully ...



in creative & expressive ways
that they are pleased with and
that helps them learn (a little) about themselves & The World around them

... and that if they do this and a couple of other things, they have been promised get a *Digital Badge* for [#CreativeCoding](#) that they can display and share on social media along with a short summary of their efforts: a **Creative Coding Commentary**?

Action - What You Need To Do

Well, **100 students** completed the voluntary task, about 1/4 of them.

Tutors now need write a few sentences describing *each of the submitting students'* initiative, participation, creativity, & group-work capability in the [#CreativeCoding](#) activity and tutorials. This is the *Creative Coding Commentary* that we promised that *Stage 1 Personal Tutors* would produce.

We need a few short sentences that are intended to provide them with some encouragement, and you with some colour and individual 'data' to help you (or a colleague) with convincing reference writing down the line.

Full Story - Helpful Details on What to Do ...

Here's How To Do It ...

The *Workload Model* gives us 20 mins *per tutee* for this task, so we hope that you can use this time to ...

1. Check the [List of Submitting Students](#) to see who has submitted from your Stage 1 Tutor Group
2. Have a look at the [Dear Data Sketch Submissions](#) for each of these students;
3. Draft a *brief commentary*, based upon the submission and your engagement with them through the process;
4. Log the commentary on [e:Vision](#);
5. Send a brief e-mail to the students to let them know that you have completed the commentary, with a copy of the text, any feedback on the submission and some congratulations on having submitted. If you are going to the *Pizza & Data Party* then encourage them to come along.

Details follow ...

Submitted Files

You'll find two folders for each students who has submitted here:

- [Dear Data Sketch Submissions](#)

These are ...

- `StudentName_ ... _onlinetext`,
A web page that offers a short commentary on the effort.
This should be in a file called `onlinetext.html` - click and see!
- `StudentName_ ... _file`, which contains:
 - a **screen dump** - so you can see something of what was produced.
This may be all you need,
 - an **archive** - containing code and data, that you can unpack (double click?), run and play with.
Do this if you like, no need.
It might run in [Processing](#) if you are lucky.
If it doesn't - then make sure that `filename.pde` is in a folder called `filename` .
So `ccProj.pde` must be in a `ccProj` folder (`./ccProj/ccProj.pde`)
If that doesn't work ... **give up**.

Drafting the Text

This is just a chance to say something that is *positive, personal* and *compact* about the student and their efforts that you (or somebody else) might draw upon when writing a reference.

Focus on their *initiative, participation, creativity, & group-work capability* in the [#CreativeCoding](#) activity and the tutorials that you ran.

Try to be specific about their choice of topic and data collection, and any reflection that occurred.

The *four* examples that I have written are copied below (anonymised) in an Appendix.

Feel free to use words, structure or nothing at all from these to inspire your efforts.

Logging on e:Vision

Once you have your text, it's relatively easy (given what a pain *e:Vision* is) to log this.

- e:Vision - <https://evision.city.ac.uk/>

```
WHILE you haven't logged all of the Creative Coding Commentaries for Your Tutees who h
DO
    Select the Student (click their name)
    Click 'Details'
    Click 'Session Notes'
    Click 'New General Note'
    Paste the Text that you have written
    Click 'Preview'
    Click 'Save'
```

Email

Send a friendly congratulatory message to each tutee - as it says above:



Send a brief e-mail to the students to let them know that you have completed the commentary, with a copy of the text, any feedback on the submission and some congratulations on having submitted. If you are going to the *Pizza & Data Party* then encourage them to come along.

Once again, the *four* examples that I have written are below (anonymised) in an Appendix.

Feel free to use or ignore these as much or as little as you like.

Complete! (phew)

OK - All you need to do now is show up for the *Pizza & Data Party*, grab some pizza and chat to the students about their *Dear Data Diaries*!

Except there is also ...

The Reward

We're grateful for the effort that people have put into this activity and so as well as bumping up your WA and optionally filling you with *University Catering Pizza* you will receive ...

1. a **Digital Badge** - some people got a little upset by my issuing of self-awarded imaginary medals last term, so I should know better, but I am sending you a slightly tongue-in-cheek *digital badge* from our *OpenBadgeFactory* facility so that you can see how this works and what the students received.
Remember, this reward system was suggested as an incentive by students and is supported by the University. Some students already have these on their *LinkedIn* pages. We might find it useful for some activities.
If you want to know more, or discuss ideas, get in touch.
2. a **Physical NoteBook** - we have ordered [#CreativeCoding](#) notebooks for all tutors to say 'thanks'. They are very nice items, and you can pick them up either at the *Pizza & Data Party*, or, if you can't make that or are one of those people who doesn't like Pizza, or Students, or both or to handle books with sticky fingers then please pick up from *Asif Nawaz* in A304.

That really is it - until we ask for *feedback* from you and the students to feed into next year's planning.

Thanks very much for now.

Examples below if you need them.

Jason DYKES

24 Feb 2025

APPENDIX : Four Examples

Here is the text I produced for the four of my tutees who submitted.

Give as much or as little detail as you like in your commentaries and emails.

Re-use this stuff iff it is helpful, but be sure to include something that is individual and that relates to the particular students, their data and their efforts.

That's the point really.

Give me feedback if you think I can improve things.

Student 1 : Phone Shapes

CREATIVE CODING COMMENTARY

S1 participated well in our first year Creative Coding activity, a voluntary course that required (and encouraged) creative thinking and relied upon some personal data collection and autonomous study.

She/he attended and contributed well to tutorials and showed some capability as a creative coder - we used Processing to learn to code and produce output quickly that helped stimulate discussion about data and self.

She/he produced a Dear Data Diary showing his/her phone use over a week and used classes to capture, display and analyze this information effectively in an original interactive sketch. There were some nice ideas in his/her visualization, which was elegant, expressive and revealing - Friday

Full set of examples at

<https://jsndyks.github.io/cityCreativeCoding/html/tutors/ccCommentary.2024.html>