252 Narrative

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I really did not know what to expect coming into this class. I had a positive mindset and outlook on coding because I have never experienced it and knew that I could learn a lot from it. I have watched my dad do coding my whole life and while it seemed strange to me I thought it would be interesting to see what it is like and how it’s done. I knew that coding is a good career path with a good salary so when I started this class I hoped that I might find a passion I didn’t know I had and possibly make a career out of it. I have never been good with computers, so I did not expect this to happen, but I kept a positive outlook of “you never know until you try”. I set my goals to learn the basics of coding and find out if it is something that I could be interested pursuing as a career path. I realized pretty early on that I did not think this was something meant for me or something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life, but I still wanted to give it a shot and try my best. Throughout the semester I learned through lectures, getting help from friends, following online tutorials NAME SOME, and having my dad help me with some stuff. I do not think my goals evolved much over the semester, except for the fact that I realized that I do not think that coding is going to be a big part of my future. I am not very into computers or technology and I never have been, but it is nice to know that coding is not as scary or impossible as I thought it was when I first started. I now know that if in the future I ever need to code that I can do it without too much difficulty.

I think my biggest failure was not keeping up with the code written in class once I missed a day. I did not catch up right away and got a little behind which made me not fully understand some of the lectures after it. I had to reteach myself- or try to reteach myself- what I missed which was probably where I struggles the most in this class. I would have learned more and gotten a better experience if I did it right away. I think that personally I get frustrated when I do not understand something right away and I would get frustrated when I thought I was doing something right and it ended up not working. Cole helped me out a lot when I got confused in class and I was grateful for it because sometimes I struggled a lot.

I do feel much more educated on the topic and think that I could work through coding problems which I couldn’t have done at the beginning of the year. This class made me realize that although I don’t think I will be a professional coder, it opened my eyes to how beneficial it is and how knowing how to code can help in many different aspects and career choices. I don’t think it necessarily helped me “know myself better” but it gave me a better idea on how I work with code and the different ways it can be used in the future.

Through all of this chaos I think I would give myself a A- because during the semester at JMU I attended class and worked through the badges and after quarantine I worked on some random code with my dad and he taught me things that I didn’t necessarily work through but feel like I also learned a lot. I thought it was much more difficult to succeed in this class while trying to do it from home because I could not get help from you or classmates as easily as I could have at school. I liked learning in class much better than online, as it is more distracting and oftentimes harder to focus.