

Lucy Jiang  
Honors 100 A  
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Assignment #5: Autumn Reflection and Portfolio

Even before coming to the University of Washington, I knew that I wanted to explore the field of computer science and find my passions both inside and outside of the classroom. Within just one quarter, to my surprise, I've found my own community of active thinkers. In my CSE 143 Honors seminar, I've even been able to relate computer science principles to a thoughtful and constructive discussion about our generation and the future of technology. However, this is not enough; my goal is to continue furthering my knowledge of the intersection between computer science, ethics, and society throughout the rest of my time at UW and to potentially pursue a concentration in human-computer interaction.

Being a part of Honors 100 has opened my eyes to a new way of thinking. Especially in terms of reflection, I have grown to understand how important it is to think critically in order to make any sort of change. From analyzing our thoughts about the quarter during one of our sessions, to doing activities that emphasize group-work skills, I've learned that we must always think of what, how, and why we are doing something, and that two heads are almost always better than one. I hope to continue reflecting and thinking about my past to inform my future, and to become a stronger, more thoughtful person due to this.

Coming to college has proven to be a major transition that, to say the least, has taught me more about myself than I learned throughout high school. I have become increasingly interested in discovering the applications of computing – ones that stretch beyond creating phone applications, novel robots, or the newest gaming equipment. Being a part of this interdisciplinary environment has taught me to seek opportunities that not only help me diversify my skill set, but also improve others' lives.

In a couple of ways, I've surprised myself by being more proactive and seeking a multitude of different experiences. I would have never expected to meet a professor and attend a graduate-level seminar in my first quarter, nor would I have ever thought that I would be brave enough to reach out to professors or graduate students, but these interactions have guided me in broadening my understanding of accessible technology and CS.

Professor Ladner helped guide me towards opportunities at UW that would help me explore this field, and Professor Mankoff and Professor Findlater have been instrumental in engaging me in critical discussions about expanding accessibility and inclusion in computer science. Even after this quarter and after the seminar ends, I hope to continue asking and answering these important questions and to keep in touch with the inspiring faculty in this field.

The vast array of opportunities – from research to teaching assistant positions – have caught me by surprise. Although I was aware that undergraduates were commonly teaching assistants in entry-level computer science courses, I never expected that I would be eligible for such a position by my second quarter at the university. Furthermore, I was also surprised by how easy it was to find people with similar interests and make friends. During Early Fall Start, I was able to find a small community within the Allen School and we have only grown closer since; I have also made friends outside of computer science in the last nine weeks, and I hope to maintain, strengthen, and grow these lifelong connections.

I am excited to take on the next couple of quarters this year and, in particular, I'm interested in learning more about climate change in my winter quarter Honors class. Although

this does not entirely align with my major, I hope that it will open my eyes to a whole new set of global issues and challenges that may be viewed with a computing-related lens. By the end of my first year in Honors, my goal is to become a more world-conscious individual, and I hope to make a positive change in the UW community and beyond. By the end of my time at UW, my goal is to find a way to make a true impact with computer science.