Unit 3 Learning Journal

Programming 1 (University of the People)

Learning Journal

The Learning Journal is a tool for self-reflection on the learning process. In addition to completing directed tasks, you should use the Learning Journal to document your activities, record problems you may have encountered and to draft answers for Discussion Forums and Assignments. The Learning Journal should be updated regularly (on a weekly basis), as the learning journals will be assessed by your instructor as part of your Final Grade.

Your learning journal entry must be a reflective statement that considers the following questions:

- Describe what you did. This does not mean that you copy and paste from what you have posted or the assignments you have prepared. You need to describe what you did and how you did it.
- Describe your reactions to what you did
- Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had. Discuss how they were helpful
- Describe your feelings and attitudes
- Describe what you learned

Another set of questions to consider in your learning journal statement include:

- What surprised me or caused me to wonder?
- What happened that felt particularly challenging? Why was it challenging to me?
- What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?
- What am I realizing about myself as a learner?
- In what ways am I able to apply the ideas and concepts gained to my own experience?

Finally, describe one important thing that you are thinking about in relation to the activity

In this week's activates, I learned about more complex control pathways, including the switch statement, and the try and catch statement. The try and catch statement was interesting. At first it seemed counterintuitive to me, to try to catch an exception, rather than just code the program not to produce the exception in the first place. However; upon researching some examples online, the utility of it became a bit clearer.

I feel that the tools gained during the last few weeks are just the building blocks of much more complex algorithms and combinations of code, that will allows us to start building more complex, highly functional programs. I am excited for this, and hope I can keep up with my already busy schedule.

On that note, I actually feel that I am not keeping up with the content as well as I could be, and could go through the practice examples in the textbook, and the material, more thoroughly. I am not having any difficulty with the programming assignments so far, however; they seem to be quite simple, and only incorporate two to three concepts discussed in the chapter. This is unfortunate as I am a much more kinesthetic learner. If I simply read about programming in the textbook, but don`t apply it, I fear I will not remember or learn much of the concepts.

I hope to do a better job of studying in the coming weeks. However; it will be a challenge as I will be backpacking through Europe for two weeks. I will at least make sure to keep on top of the reading, but may not be able to do as much programming during the time.

I hope to start seeing the potential of the Java language. So far, it seems a great deal more complicated than Python, but not actually capable of much more. However; I know that Java as a language is considered to be one of the best. So I will keep an open mind.