John Samaha ISAT 252 Benton 4/23/10

Semester Narrative

I have several items in my portfolio including Lab 1 which consisted of the various gates within programming that my group did well on. Next I have the answers to the questions for Lab 2 that my group and I worked on as well as the work from Labs 3 and 4 which involved our "Price Lion" program and the code written for the software. Even though I did not write out the code I was able to understand what was going on within our program. Our program allows an individual to put in what items that will be getting at the grocery store and then it will be able to calculate the total amount of money that those items would cost them. My group thought that this would be beneficial for anyone who goes grocery shopping. I have the study guide for the first exam which shows that I put in some effort and looked over it to study for the test even though I did poorly on it. I have the work from our Lab 5 program in which we have a narrative for a science problem and we brainstormed on how we were going to fix it. We did our problem on recycling on campus at JMU and we provided areas of where someone could put recycling bins in order to help the JMU community out. I also have our flow chart which we developed in order to make the program on Visual Studio for the recycling problem on campus. This shows that I understand how to create flow charts and how they work. I next have the study guide for the second exam which again shows that I put in some effort and looked over it to study for the test which proves that I did because I improved on this test. I have the program and code for our semester project which is titled "Cab Counter." Once again even though I did not develop the actual code I went over it and I was able to understand what was going on within the program. The software allows an individual to put their in town miles and out of town miles that they will be traveling or select their starting point and destination in order to calculate the total fare that the cab will cost them. My group believes that this program would be beneficial for JMU students especially on the weekends. I next have Lab 8 which has our narrative we wrote for our program we developed about how an individual can make it from ISAT to Memorial Hall within 15 minutes in order to make it to class on time. There is a glossary/dictionary for our options, some examples that could happen, and then finally the flow chart which displays the different options someone could take from ISAT to Memorial. This shows that I understand how to write a narrative and how to develop a flow chart for a Corvid program. The Bits, Bytes, and Boolean Quiz which I did alright on, but went back and learned how to do the binary code. I have the knowledge-based systems homework 1 which I completed and I got most of it which showed I knew the material fairly well. I also have the computational thinking article that I read and learned a lot about programming and how everyone should know how to do it because it can be applied to almost any field or workplace. I have some notes which showed that I paid attention in class to Morgan and tried to learn the material as best as I could. I have the journal which I did for our semester project about the ABC Cab Counter which showed that I made sure everything was going smoothly step by step and if it was not then I wrote down our roadblocks and tried to help my partners out. Finally, I have homework 2 which consisted of the If and Then statements for a knowledge-based system and I learned how to do those within software which was reflected with our last lab. As I have mentioned my labs above and what I have

accomplished this semester, all of this represents that I understand and learned all the objectives that are stated in the syllabus.

I have learned so much from taking this ISAT 252 programming class. It is one of the most interesting and fun classes that I have ever taken. Professor Benton is an awesome instructor who always is willing to help someone out when they need it. He is definitely the best hands-on professor I have ever had. I enjoyed doing the various labs and software applications in this class within my group of Andrew and Alex. I thought we all worked well together in order to complete all the labs on time. I met with them when I was able to and we always got the job done. I was dedicated to this class because I made it to all of them except one when I left early for my spring break to Nicaragua. I thought I worked hard and put in a good amount of effort in this class. I watched most of the videos online, did both of the homework assignments. and completed all the labs with my group. I went to a few of the hacking sessions which allowed me to put in a couple extra hours within the classroom and get work done efficiently. I did all the readings also for the class which helped me to understand programming a lot better in general. I improved on my tests going from a 58 to a 70 which showed that I developed a better understanding for the concepts and material in the course. The fact that the two grades were low does not reflect the hard effort I put in trying to master the material as I went back over the two tests and a couple of the videos online. I liked how Morgan taught the course in that there were no grades until the end of the semester which relieved me of stress and allowed me to do the best job I could possibly do for each task at hand. I also liked how it was separate from my other classes in that it was on Basecamp instead of Blackboard which allowed me to focus on just this class at times. I also completed all the homework tasks online in which I learned a good amount of material. All in all, I had a great semester with Morgan and I am able to take a lot away from this class. I believe that I deserve an A in this class as I listened intently to Morgan during class and worked hard within my lab group week in and week out.