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Section 2

Final Narrative

Before the semester started, I thought this class was going to be least favorite because I hadn't done much programming before, and what I had done I didn't enjoy. I just don't think that I'm good at programming, but since being in your class I gained a lot of respect for those who are good at programming. I had never really thought about all that goes into programs, and I can't even imagine the work done to make complex programs like Word. I think that I got what I wanted to out of this class, which was a basic understanding of programming.

I think that your teaching strategy is really effective, and I hope you keep doing it. I also think that because you are so excited about it, the class wanted to see it work out for you. I actually felt the worse when I didn't come to your class even though it wouldn't affect my grade. The way the class was set up made it so I didn't even realize I was learning, and it felt like just hanging out. For example, going into the tests I didn't study and I was surprised by what I knew. The tests also made me aware of what I should know. I wish I learned like this in more of my classes because this is the type of learning that sticks with you because I was actually comprehending things rather than just memorizing. I also found this class to be the easiest class to pay attention to. In most of my other classes I tend to zone out during lectures, but I rarely did that during your class. I like that you let us decided what determined a good quality program, because then we knew exactly what should be done. However, I think that I could have made more of an effort for your class. For me, it was little hard to adjust to how flexible the class was because I have never had a class like this. More specifically, I wish I watched more

videos, or took more initiative in labs. For certain things in the class, like the videos, I found it harder to do because there was no direct consequence.

If someone asked me to make a certain program I probably wouldn't be able to tell them off the top of my head, but I think that if I sat down with visual basic in front of me I could at least make something remotely close to what they wanted. I think that I have the overall basics of programming. In the syllabus you said that it is more important to be able to approach a problem and solve it using programming strategies, and I think I can do that.

After being in your class I have a whole new perspective on school. You made me see that I am here for a reason, and being here is a privilege. For example, in my other classes I started taking time to actually comprehend the subject because I don't want to waste my parent's money. I agree with you that most students just cram for tests then forget it when they're over, and now I try to stop doing that as much, especially for my ISAT classes. I have made an effort to stop doing as little as possible for my classes because of your class. Now, I am more concerned with learning the material, rather than just passing the class (and getting good grades is just a perk). Even my roommates have been making fun of me for how much effort I'm putting into my classes. I've honestly worked a lot harder this semester, and it is because of your class.

Obviously I am going to ask for an A because I do think that I made a really good effort in your class. I think I only missed 3 classes, and I honestly would have missed them even if your class had grades. Even though we didn't get grades for your class, the labs usually came before my other homework because I wanted to do it rather than just having to do it. For example, I have a paper, and physics homework I haven't even

started, but I'm doing this instead. I also did every lab with the best of my ability, even though some of them didn't turn out exactly as intended, like my Study Buddy. I don't think that because this program didn't turn out exactly as I wanted it to matters because you said most programs don't work out. The fact that I worked hard on the Study Buddy is all that matters to me. I feel that for this class hard work, rather than extensive knowledge of programming, defines the grade because in most cases programs don't always work as intended. I think I didn't try as much as I know I could have is because I'm not that interested in the subject, which isn't your fault at all. As I said before, I do have a great respect for programmers now, but it's just something I am not good at. I think that because I'm not the biggest fan of programming and made a substantial effort anyway I do deserve an A. I honestly think I will take the things I learned in your class with me for most of my life, if not the rest. For example, if I ever need a program made for myself I will be able to use what I learned in this class to tell the programmer exactly what problem I want solved, and I will be able to give him/her good feedback. I also don't think that I am affecting my peers by getting this A, because I am not going to sector in IKM. I am really glad you are letting us decide our own grade because this is the kind of class where you could learn a lot but your grade may not reflect it. Finally, I think that I deserved an A because I got what I wanted out of this class, and I am satisfied with what I learned.