

Personal Statement

I have been dreading this moment since the beginning of the semester. The idea of negotiating my grade for the class is daunting and unreal. I do not have to prove to anyone that I work hard, because I know it shows. And this confidence does not stem from a false sense of superiority or self-promoting; but rather, I have always lived my life according to one saying:

You are what you do; therefore, excellence is not an act, but a habit.

I work hard because all I want from life is to be respected. And this does not mean that I will always be liked because I do have a habit of going against societal norms and embracing my ideals whether popular or not. But because I act on what I believe and because I am true to those beliefs, I will gain respect in the long run. Furthermore, my hard work has always been reinforced by the grade a professor gives me. But along with this "reward", I also believe there is a hidden punishment. The grades come with expectations. Before college, I was an average student with many extracurricular activities. Now, I focus the majority of my energy into my academic work and my GPA reflects that. The pressure to maintain that average is almost unbearable, but I remain sane because I am not obsessed about the number, but rather I am obsessed with excellence and potential. Your class has proven to me that I can strive for excellence even without the grade on the line. I go to extra hacking sessions simply because I like working on the projects. I am excited to come to class, and even sit through multiples of the same class, because the information is intriguing and motivating. I look forward to new videos on basecamp even if I do not understand everything that is being explained. I enjoy the learning process and I enjoy the faith you have in your students and how much freedom you allot them. This experience has tested my commitment to learning and education and I am happy to realize that I am just as passionate about learning even without the so-called "reward" and I am grateful for the opportunity that you have given the rest of the students and me this semester.

I came into this course having not any previous knowledge of basic programming. And this statement is key to how I have graded myself. I now have a better understanding of basic programming. I can solve simple problems using Visual Basic. I understand the theory behind knowledge base systems. And most importantly, I have grown as an individual by being a member in your educational study. To be honest, I am sure that I do not know everything about basic programming and I am sure that I would require a lot of assistance in solving a problem using Visual Basic. But this is not important. What is important, however, is that I desire to learn more and to explore more. And it is for this reason that I deserve an A for my performance and my growth as a student.