

# Theoretically speaking... Writing Process

ENGW3302: Project 1 Reflection

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## 1 Overview

In this essay I analyzed several key learning experiences in my Computer Science education. I connected the concepts taught to their backing theories, and explored why those theories make the most sense from a teaching perspective. I would describe my writing process as iterative. For each section, I identified a useful mental tool I acquired. I then identified where it came from, and drilled down on the moments which most significantly sharpened that tool. Those moments generally corresponded to theories, which made for easy writing. The inclusion of multiple learning experiences made for a nice “arc” in my essay, which told the story of my educational development in CS as well as I could in 1000 words. I made some attempts at humor throughout, which appeared to be well-received, and served to make the paper approachable.

## 2 Challenges

I chose to analyze the nitty-gritty of how concrete concepts in Computer Science are taught, as opposed to higher level teaching theories like Wittgensteins Ladder. This proved to be more difficult than anticipated. I had trouble articulating exactly why, for example, the reduction proof technique better lent itself to teaching than any other technique. My readers noticed this, and brought it up consistently across peer reviews. While I believe I could have improved my explanation of relevant technical details (which I attempted in the revised version), I think it would have been better to narrow the scope of my essay. In retrospect, 3 major learning moments complete with backing theory and technical description resulted in shallower analysis of each than I would have liked.

## 3 My Peers

On that note, something my peers did quite well was narrow their scope. Most essays I read focused on a single key learning experience, and provided more depth and reflection on what influenced that experience. They also were able to enumerate several theories all at play in that one experience. I felt at the end of these essays I had a clear window into one such experience they found valuable.