# CISC 181 Written Assignment 2: Programmer Demographics

**OBJECTIVE**

In this assignment you will examine in more detail a topic related to digital societies and its implications.

**DESCRIPTION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| In their paper, *The case of computer science education, employment, gender, and race/ethnicity in Silicon Valley, 1980–2015*, John & Carnoy describe computer science education in the US and the demographics of programmers in California's Silicon Valley. Read the paper and write a short analysis on the topic following the instructions and structure below. The length of the assignment must be 700-900 words. |  |

**Section I: The paper.**

In your own words, describe the authors' reason or reasons for their investigations, describe their research methods, including their sources of data, and give a summary of their findings and conclusions. [6 marks.]

**Section II: How does Canada compare?**

Download the book, *Stacking Up: A Snapshot of Canada's Developer Talent* by Lamb & Rubinger (<https://brookfieldinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/BrookfieldInstitute_StackingUp.pdf>), **and read the section** ***Who Are Canada's Developers?*** Compare and contrast the data from Silicon Valley in 2015 and Canada in 2017, what are the notable similarities and differences? [6 marks.]

**Section III: How do you fit in this story?**

Many of the students taking this course are already in the School of Computing's undergraduate program and may be in one of the streams that could lead to a programming career. Others are not. If you are considering a career in programming, why and when did you start down that path? If, instead, the idea of living a programmer's life has no or little appeal, why do you think that is? Do you agree with the conclusion of the report that the "Canadian labour market remains unrepresentative of Canada’s diverse population?" Explain your answer. [8 marks.]