**05.09A Discussion: Pathways to Computer Science:** In what ways do the people in this video correspond to or differ from your image of a computer scientist? What common themes do they express that inspires their work? In what ways has their knowledge of computer science enabled them to more successfully pursue their interests and careers? In what ways is computer science affecting a field you are interested in pursuing? How could you combine computer science and your fields of interest to chart a unique path for your future?

I think the major difference I noticed between what I thought of Computer Scientists and what the Pathways to Computer Science video showed me was the hands-on experience that the Computer Scientists had. A lot of people were working outside or with people most of the time, while my idea of a Computer Scientists were just a bunch of code-monkeys working in teams. Everyone in the video expressed some sort of willingness to work with people to make a difference. Throughout all of their projects, the students in the video all felt that their project they were working on were important, and acted as if what they did was influential. I like that because I also want to make a difference in the world through Computer Science.

Computer Science really helped these people pursue their goals by giving them the mentality that everything is a problem that can be solved. In Computer Science, you develop code by first realizing the problem you want to be solved, figuring out a way to do it, and writing code to solve it. The people in the video used this to problem-solve as well. In the field I want to pursue, cryptography, this plays an important part in my development as there is always a problem that needs to be solved. Sure, I could write code all day, but writing code that solves a problem people are having, like their files being hacked, makes all my work very important. This mentality will definitely help me if I ever want to start up my own business, as I know the problems people are having and then therefore what they would buy to fix them.

Connor Hayes – 5.09C Discussion 12/10

Jacquelyn Sizemore – 5.09B 12/10