**SELF-REFLECTION EXERCISE**

1. What role does my art play in my life?

Art is fundamental in my wellbeing and mental health. Art is at the very core of who I am. The act of creation is as fundamental as taking a breath to me. Art and my passion for all things creative has been one of the core drives that keep me on my path as a full stack software engineer.

1. What inspires my art?

The act of creation. At times, my mood. I have put messages into my artwork, but it’s literal.   
In painting, the colors, after a mid-summer rain.

1. What motivates me to pursue a career in art and design?

Creation. Plain and simple. I live to create.

1. Does my major align with my inspiration?

My major absolutely aligns with creation. I am a Game Programming major. I love creating games, artwork, and programs. I love bringing things to life from nothing. This major aligns well with that.

1. Where am I in the development of my craft?

I do not know. I like to think of my self as experienced, but I do not think I have even begun to tap who I am and what I can accomplish. I have been creating for decades. Programming for decades. Painting for decades.

I am not there yet. Where is there? I do not know, but I know for me, I am not there. There is no milestone I want to reach. I will just know when I have achieved what I set out to do.

1. What are the next steps I need to take?

I need to continue to grow as an artist, developer, programmer, and creator. I continue to push myself at work, in courses, and in school.   
If anything, I need to keep my focus narrow and really get good at that one area, so good that I’m that guy.

1. Is there something holding me back?

What holds me back? Nothing. What slows me down? Everything!

Life is busy! I work two full time full stack engineer positions, I attend college full time, I have a family, and then everything else. Busy, busy, busy.   
I always find or make the time to accomplish what is important.

1. What makes me unique?

Everything about me. I am analytical and artistic. I think of myself as a Swiss Army Knife of experience.

1. What are my short- and long-term professional goals?

I have achieved my short-term goals.

I work two full time full stack engineer positions. I have maintained that for seven months. My salary expectations have been met in the short term. I currently exceed around $170k.

Long term? I would rather own my own firm.

1. What skills would make me successful?

I would say the one thing that matters most is shipping work. Follow thru, deliver.

1. Who hires people with these skills?

Everyone looks for a developer that can deliver on time, on budget, with little interaction.

1. What is my ideal job?

I have it well with where I am now.

If anything, I would rather own my own company.