

Renee Anderson

12/10/2025

Reflection Paper

My experience working on this project honestly ended up being more meaningful than I expected. I already had a moment earlier in the semester where I worked with classes that involved shapes, but this project pushed me to actually understand the structure instead of just following along. Even though what I did before gave me a little confidence, this time I had to slow down and think about why everything was built in a certain way. It wasn't copying or repeating something old. It was more like, "Okay, now I actually know what inheritance is doing and why these files belong together."

At first, setting up the Shape base class and then breaking the rest of the shapes into their own files felt overwhelming. I'm used to everything being in one place, so spreading it out into a whole hierarchy made me pay attention to my organization. Once I saw how the classes connected, it actually started to make sense. The part that clicked the most was when I saw virtual functions working. It was kind of cool seeing how all the shapes shared the same interface, but each one did their own thing when the program ran.

There were definitely frustrating moments, especially compiling and linking the files together. It reminded me that programming isn't just writing code but also knowing how to manage your project and keep everything clean enough to work. When the errors finally stopped and the program actually ran, it felt good because I knew I understood more than I did at the beginning.

The biggest thing I'm taking from this project is confidence in object-oriented programming. I feel like I actually understand inheritance, polymorphism, and how to design something that has different pieces working together. It wasn't perfect, and I definitely had moments where I got stuck, but finishing it made me feel like I really earned the result. It also showed me that I'm growing from the work I've already done instead of repeating it. That's probably the part I'm most proud of.