

Letter of Intent :: Bootcamp 2017

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Over the course of Bootcamp 2016 and the Fall semester, I became a sort of ad-hock tutor to many of my peers both in programming concepts and thinking through the design process. My ability to do so stems primarily from my undergrad experience with Creative Code, as well as my professional experience as a technology camp instructor for elementary school-aged kids and writing project documentation for flip-phone-weilding Baby Boomer clients at an award-winning Philly design firm. This semester, I have formalized my role as a peer tutor through the New School Learning Center's Code Tutoring program, and I would like to continue doing so this summer at Bootcamp 2017.

I understand Bootcamp to be a foundation to cultivating the the social, cultural, and intellectual paradigm of the DT program as well as a means to start supplying students with the tools to help them actualize that process. In that regard, I think Bootcamp would be well served to focus more conceptually on the motivating factors and architectures behind and below programming as well as expounding upon the visual semantics of works which students will go on to produce in their D+T careers.

Very often in my bootcamp section, many of my peers would ask questions about syntax which belied deeper questions of 'why do I have to do things this way?', which I don't believe were optimally addressed by the curriculum. I think future bootcamp students would be well served by taking a day or two of learning the underlying logic of programming before jumping right into Processing and getting lost in the weeds of syntax.

Additionally, while the practice of critical design is crucial to the D+T department, I feel like last year's design curriculum let the topic of visual semantics fall by the wayside. As a result, I feel that many classmates who were looking to learn more in the realm of communication design were underserved. In the future, I'd like to see more assignments and class descussions focused on what we are telling our audiences with what we are showing, and how the form of our work implies meaning.

Thank you for this opportunity to help the D+T program and future students. I look forward to helping usher in the next generation of D+T.