

Activity 05

Read and Respond

“What is Code?” by Paul Ford: <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-paul-ford-what-is-code/>
Read the required sections, as listed below—each title is linked to the anchor in the page—and then write a response (around 500 words), making sure to answer the questions in italics.

REQUIRED SECTIONS (Chapter 1 & 2)

1.1 [Why Are We Here?](#)

Of the programming languages that the author has professional experience with, which ones, if any, are you familiar with and why?

2.0 [Let's Begin](#)

The author mentions a number of companies and also everyday things in relation to computers—which ones jumped out at you and what do you think is missing from the lists?

2.1 [How Do You Type an “A”?](#)

Describe the representations of a single letter from the perspective of a computer.

2.2 [From Hardware to Software](#)

How has the job of coders/programmers evolved in relation to software and the market?

2.3 [How Does Code Become Software?](#)

Describe the nature and goal of code.

What is the purpose of a compiler?

How does a computer “understand,” and what is it looking for?

2.4 [What Is an Algorithm?](#)

What is the job of an algorithm, and what does one of the famous named ones do?

How does the author describe a programming language?

How does the author distinguish between a programmer and a computer scientist?

2.5 [The Sprint](#)

Describe what a functional specification document is and often includes.

2.6 [What's With All These Conferences, Anyway?](#)

Cite at least one example relating to the gender issue he highlights.

Describe your experience with each of the 3 interactives, featuring the blue bot—(1) simulated circuitry in 2.0, (2) keyboard in 2.1, and (3) the tree in 2.3. What happens if you scroll too fast?

Post your response/answers as a comment to the #activity05 channel on Slack.

OPTIONAL/EXTRA CREDIT (can make up for one previous activity)

Read at least 3 of the sections listed and linked to below, and write a response of around 250 words.

Post your response as a separate response on #activity05.

3.0 [Why Are Programmers so Intense About Languages?](#)

3.1 [The Beauty of the Standard Library \(includes an interactive\)](#)

3.2 [What do Different Languages Do?](#)

5.7 [What About JavaScript? \(includes a mouse-based interactive\)](#)

6.0 [How Are Apps Made?](#)

6.5 [And Now For Something Beautiful \(about GitHub\)](#)

7.5 [Should You Learn to Code? \(includes a coding interactive\)](#)