

MTEC 1101: Emerging Media Foundation
 Spring 2023
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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)