

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)