Part 2, Group Reflection #1A
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Question 2 - What are the skills needed in programming?

We found this to be a great question and one that we could review with our students at the beginning of course as a way to let them know some of the skills they will be asked to use or acquire along the way. Those skills include:

1. Persistence
   Programming can be so frustrating. Know that you are not going to get everything right away, but the more you practice and explore the better you become. Don’t be afraid to try something new because you think it will break what you have already created. The kids that excel are the ones that ask questions, stick to the task and don’t give up. The kids that really struggle are the loners that just want to fade into the scenery.

2. Detail Oriented
   When it comes to coding, the order of code matters, spelling matters, and rules/syntax of language matter.

3. Problem Solving
   A huge part of programming is debugging. There’s really no Youtube video for the exact code that you want to write so you have to hunt around and keep at it until you get the output you need. We learned a lot from failing to do something, figuring out what we did wrong, researching the solution and then working through how to fix it. Generally along the way, we would pick up methods for solving other problems as we’d research solutions. A programmer’s job is all about developing a solution (program) to a problem they are experiencing in real life.

4. Collaboration
   Just because programming is often thought of as sitting behind a computer screen, doesn’t mean that it doesn’t involve a lot of communication. Often times than not, you will be communicating ideas verbally. One of the best ways to fix a program, make it better, or learn new ideas is by pair-programming.

5. Typing/Writing Skills
   You need to be able to write in a way that gets your message across clearly. The ability to explain something complicated to someone non-technical is also beneficial. Students who aren’t a fast typer, get frustrated more easily when it comes to text-based coding. Spelling is also a huge factor in text-based coding.
6. Inquisitive Mind
   A programmer is always looking to find out how something is done or ways to make something better. Even if it's just refactoring code, they ask themselves "how could this be better?"