Preparation

- Begin thinking about what you already know about computers and how they work, and also think about what you do not know and what you would like to know
- Look through the text book – the chapters we’ll be reading and the section topics
- Read the article linked on the course web page “Programming doesn’t begin to define computer science.”

What to hand in

Write a short (2 – 3 page) reflection, or narrative, on your thoughts on computers and how they work. Think about how much you know about the details of a simple computer operation, such as using your mouse to move a window around on the monitor. How is it that you get the computer to do what you want (i.e., move a window)? What are all the steps that the computer must complete in order to complete this task for you?

You could also include thoughts on how computers affect our society, how they do now and might in the future affect your life. What are the disciplines of computer science and computer engineering?

Finally – you can also comment on what you hope and/or expect to learn from this course.

I do not expect you to actually know all the details (or even very many) of how the computer moves the window for you – if you know this already you probably should not be in the course! However, it will be a good learning process to force yourself to think through some explanation of how a computer completes a simple task.

Grading: ✓ ✓+ ✓-

This reflection will be graded on

- Clear writing style and clear organization of your thoughts
  - You must have an introduction
  - You must have a point or objective to your essay
  - You must have a conclusion
  - The reflection should move clearly from one thought to the next
- Creativity and interesting thoughts, comments, reflections

1. Spend time thinking about this topic
2. Outline your ideas
3. Write the essay and proof-read it