

CS 4100, Fall 2016
Assignment 2
Tools, Languages, and Their Effects
Due September 12, 2016

Read chapters 0 and 1 of *MacLennan*. At the end of Chapter 1, in §1.4, MacLennan abstracts one of the levels of meaning that has been implicit in the reading: the interpretation of a programming language as a tool, with ampliative and reductive effects similar to other tools, and the psychological effects the various aspects of tools usage may have on their users.

Think about these aspects of tools. Read and think about Exercise 1-47 on page 35. Then compose and write a short essay in response this exercise. Please limit your consideration to **one** common tool, rather than the several suggested in the textbook, so your essay does not become too long.

Style

In the upper right corner of the first page of your paper state your name, the class name, the assignment number and assignment due date. Your essay must be titled, it should be centered and rendered in a larger font than the body of the paper. Following the title, quote the exercise that you are responding to in italics, with an attribution.

In the essays for this class I will be looking primarily for interesting (and correct!) content, presented in a clearly structured and organized way. I appreciate interesting use of language and style, but those are secondary to having something to say and saying it clearly, compellingly, and concisely. Length for its own sake, and its cousin wordiness, are negatives in this class and in scientific writing in general.

Your Name
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Title Here

Identify the ampliative and reductive aspects of one common tool. Further, discuss the conditions for transparency and embodiment. For example, consider eye glasses, automobiles, telephones, recorded music, or the Internet.

--MacLennan, page 35

Essay starts here...