CULTIVATE GARDEN ESSAY

By Cheuk Ling

Funny is the world I live in. You're funny, I'm interested. You're not funny, I'm not interested.

- Jerry Seinfeld

INFLUENCES

1. Mom
2. Dad
3. Neil Patrick Harris
4. Leonardo DiCaprio
5. Robert Downey Jr.
6. Jennifer Lawrence
7. Emma Stone
8. Ellen Page
9. Gwyneth Paltrow
10. Thom Yorke
11. Jennifer Aniston
12. Rick Riordan
13. J. K. Rowling
14. Jesse Eisenberg
15. Andy Samberg
16. Jimmy Fallon
17. Angelina Jolie
18. Channing Tatum
19. Jerry Seinfeld
20. Keri Russell
21. Jamie Hyneman
22. Adam Savage
23. Tory Belleci
24. Kari Byron
25. Grant Imahara

CULTIVATE GARDEN ESSAY

Hello reader, welcome to my essay. After this short intro you'll be reading a collection "plans" I have for the future. I've tried my best to be detailed enough, and below you'll find several pages of goals I've set for myself, and honestly only possibly will I actually follow through with them. However that doesn't mean that the information isn't accurate, because these plans could all be followed. Who knows maybe I will take this follow through with some of these chapters though.

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CHAPTER 1

CAREER

Is having a job that you like more important than the salary? The reason behind this question being that a Gallup poll in 2013 shows that 70% of people are dissatisfied with their job, which brings me to my plan of being a web developer. I feel that web developers are making something of their own. There are other jobs where this can be achieved, but I like to work with computers. In the long run this would be a great job because computers are everything in our current future, and well, computers connect to the web.

FIGURE 1

The average job outlook is 11% while web developing has an outlook of 20% by 2022 which means more and more people are being web developers. However what do web developers do? "Web developers design and create websites. They are responsible for the look of the site. They are also responsible for the site's technical

FIGURE 3

aspects, such as performance and capacity, which are measures of a website's speed and how much traffic the site can handle. They also may create content for the site." At least

according to the "Bureau of Labor Statistics" which also showed the median pay of web developers to be $62,500 per year in 2012.

So how do I get that fine sounding job? Because it's not simple, you generally need a plan. Now, being able to cajole your way through a job interview is pretty important, and even though it's not one of the first thing you need to learn I thought I should put it first. Getting the job is one of the end results of learning, so getting some pointers would, and they include being a good listener or even just to smile.

Now what exactly could I do right now, to get a head start? Well, a web developer should have included in their skills the ability to program. And a good start would be to learn HTML5 using JavaScript, with a

FIGURE 2

"HTML5 Programming with JavaScript For Dummies" book. It's a long book on the subject, and it covers everything from introducing JavaScript to creating a simple Google API application. Online courses could be taken too if I didn't just want to read about

it, because you could literally learn about

computer programming, on your computer. Just imagine that. Now there are also courses on computer programming at the Solano Community College if I had wanted to learn there because while online classes can be good, a real instructor would help a lot more on specific questions you may have. On the topic of courses, what could actually help quite a bit would be to choose some computer courses as some of my electives during high school. It would definitely make
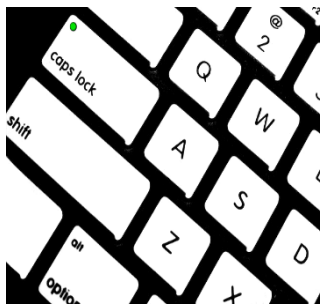

FIGURE 4

trying to get into this learning for this profession more comfortable. Last thing I'm going to mention, which in hindsight would

probably have done better first, is learn to type faster. Though completely essential in this career path, the ability to type fast is applicable in virtually any workplace with a computer. So right here I would probably put in a place where you could learn the skill I just mentioned, but since typing is such a basic thing, the internet is full free ways to learn to type faster, and you could probably get better just by typing on a regular basis.

There it is, a basic plan for my career, which I can strive for, and with any luck,

could be achieved. Now of course, there is that other possibility, of not being able to get said job, or not being successful in it. As much of a dejecting as that sounds it may very well happen, so a second, backup plan would be a smart idea. In this case I would choose to be a technical writer. Technical

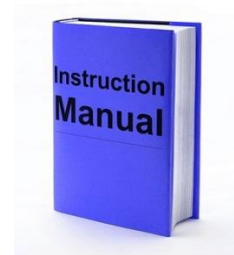writers "...prepare instruction manuals, journal articles, and other supporting documents to communicate complex and technical information

FIGURE 5

more easily." which to me really sounds like making instruction manuals, which I have always found fun. Yes, that is a true fact. What is important about technical writers is they have to be detailed enough so you can use the product, but not wordy and long as that make it harder to understand, and probably make less people read it.

There it is, the plan for my career, with all its ideas and unknowingly placed flaws. Of course this plan is a serious work in progress. There isn't every requirement for being a web developer listed, but it's more than enough on getting a head start for the profession. However, computers are always making advancements and changes. Therefore the information I mentioned could be outdated in just a short amount of time. With that I could have a better chance on being successful in this career, but if in the end this really does doesn't work out then I could become a technical writer. They use a lot of similar skills and basically it's a similar job in many aspects. Maybe it will just all work out.

CHAPTER 2

SIDE JOB

Jobs that earn a lot of money make you think, a lot. What do I mean by that? I mean they require you to constantly change your thought and adapt to different situations.

FIGURE 7

Just to prove a point, let me make an example of lawyers. Now besides the fact that just being a lawyer is an ethical nightmare, especially if they have any morality at all, their job isn't a cakewalk. Lawyers have to gather information for their cases, and then they have to analyze it and look for ways to defend their client's case. Then they have to go to court, and convince the judge of their reasoning, along with the jury. Furthermore if you're working for the profit you'll have to start your career off rough, working 80-90 hours a week to prove

your passion for the profession. Finally there two tiers of lawyers, the private and federal lawyers which earn what you would expect for a lawyer, and then the second tier, the nonprofit paid lawyers, such as state lawyers who earn, well, considerably less. To put this whole paragraph in short, high paying jobs require high amounts of work, and not to even mention the stress of it all.

A plan was made for me to become a web developer in the last chapter. Now these kinds of jobs could be a home job with hours I could set aside for. If I had the time and I wanted to earn some more money, I would be a cashier. I have actually put quite some thought into it, and being a part-time cashier would be a nice side job. As I have pointed out in the last chapter high paying

FIGURE 8

jobs are hard, so since this is a side job for me, I chose one of the most mind numbingly easy jobs there are. Cashiers basically don't need any prerequisites, and in most cases training is on the job. Now for the question of being a cashier of what, I would prefer to be one for a supermarket, though as of now I'm not sure if there is much of a difference between a cashier for a food establishment or one at a clothing store. This is a side job, it's a way to earn a little bit more money, and I shouldn't over think in it, being a web developer has already got that job handled.

Being a cashier isn't without its perks. It has job experience, counting as employment

work. Another benefit would be the communication skills you develop on the job. "You solve problems, complete requests, clarify issues and work with other employees." Communication is a life skill, so this could potentially improve it here. Now to the last benefit of being a cashier, and one of my favorites, which is of course store discounts. "Stores routinely offer their cashiers discounts or free items as a perk." so if a position in a say, a supermarket had discount on groceries or even just lunch, it would be a huge bonus.

At the end of the day, the point I'm trying to get across is that I'm not getting a

FIGURE 9

on that resume I have yet to write. There are also valuable skills you could gain, such as multitasking, as "they might complete a transaction or check inventory on the computer while answering the store phone." which is a handy skill even if not used for

FIGURE 10

side job that brings in the other half of my income. I would get a side job if I had the time, not because I have to, which is why I would even suggest cashier to be a viable choice. So in the end, since being a cashier is so simple it would be a preferable side job.

CHAPTER 3

GEOGRAPHIC HOME

House pricing changes, dramatically, in short amounts of time. Which is exactly why when I talk about ideas on a future home, it will be about where it is, and not what house I'm going to get. That would make it far too specific, and the numbers I'd show here would definitely be different. Lastly, and most importantly, I'm not sure what kind of house I want yet, so maybe I shouldn't mention it here.

FIGURE 12

Now let's start with the actual place I'd want to live in, which would be, Los Angeles. It's a six hour drive from home, and for a big city, it has a surprisingly low crime rate. It has around 3.7 million people living there, and it has the lowest crime rate for a city with a population of over 2 million. However it doesn't stop there,

reports show that crime rates in Los Angeles has been declining more and more over the last decade. Unfortunately that is and average number, because phone thefts have

FIGURE 11

spiked up by 30%. I guess I'll just have to keep my phone in a safe place.

How does climate look like in Los Angeles? I wouldn't have known much about it before I started this chapter, maybe I would have said it's hot, but that is about it. That's because, I started the chapter with a thought of a place in mind, and the low crime rates I mentioned earlier, and they were just a bonus. Now before this tangent brings the topic further away, in 2014, Los Angeles had an average high temperature of 78.3°F, a low of 55.7°F, and an all-round average of 64.75°F. That seems warm enough, while not being too hot or too cold. Here's a part of the climate that isn't as good sounding though, the

FIGURE 13

average precipitation is 3.98 inches right? Well that standard hasn't been met since 2010, and in 2014, there was 0.04 inches of rain. That is roughly 1% of the average, but precipitation varies over the years so it could be different later.

This paragraph is going to about some more fun, lighthearted facts about Los

FIGURE 16

Angeles. I'm stating that so plainly because that last paragraph was frighteningly mundane, however important. Anyways,

FIGURE 15

even though this chapter is about some

background facts of Los Angeles, I still find it important, and for one important reason, because I don't want to live in a place like Salem. The story is too well known, and off putting. "Beverly Hills started out as a modest lima bean ranch." That's a fun fact, I guess celebrities like lima beans, or something. Then there's the fact "While in February 1978, almost a foot of rain fell in 24 hours." and that would be great during a drought, however unlikely. Now the last fact would be, "If Los Angeles were its own country, its economy would be bigger than Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and Sweden's." That fact is quite impressive on its own, and

FIGURE 14

makes Los Angeles a great place to live in.

Honestly, I have no idea where I want to end up in the long run, geographically speaking. Los Angeles was just a choice I made, to write about. Then I researched it, and turns out it is a pretty nice place to live in. It has low crime rates, an agreeable climate, and a nice history. What else could you ask for in a big city like that?

CHAPTER 4

PET

People have pets, that's a fact, and it doesn't take groundbreaking research for you to realize that. People get pets for company, a pet to cherish and love. Every pet is different, even if they are of the same species, and if you look beyond that, then pets are even more
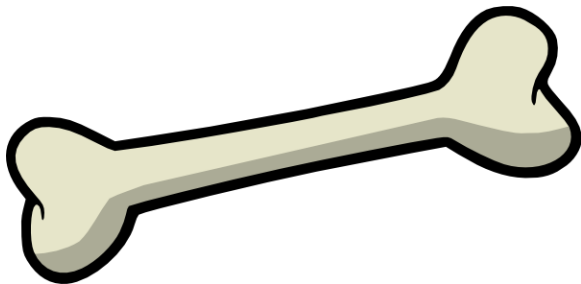

FIGURE 18

diverse, you could have a sea animal like a fish, a reptile like a snake, or just a bird. Now if you could have any animal as a pet, what would it be? I'd like an ocean sunfish, because they look like half of a fish, but unfortunately their full grown size would bigger than me.

Since there are only a small handful of pets that I could realistically see myself taking care of, I'm going to write about dogs. To be more specific, a maltese, and if you don't know what they look like, they're the breed of dog that looks suspiciously like a walking mop head. Now I'd want a maltese because it's classified as being in the "toy" category, meaning it's a small dog. See, you have to be careful and gentle with

small dogs, but you also don't really have to worry about it biting your face off, much like a huskie could probably do. The maltese is considered one of the brightest and the most playful of the toy breeds, and how could that possibly be a bad thing. They also shed very little, and while I'm not sure what counts has "little", I am certain that it is better than "very often". Now there are some downsides to having a pet maltese, but there aren't many to make me not want to take care of one. Those downsides would be the fact that since they're so small, they are extremely fragile, and proper care must be taken for that. The other thing is, they are

FIGURE 17

notoriously hard for housebreaking. Finally, they need to be combed and brushed frequently, and that makes sense, seeing as they look like a mop.

So, how do you take care of a dog? Well every dog is different, and require different

amounts of care. However all dogs are similar, and require similar needs. ASPCA suggests that, "The annual cost of a small dog—including food, veterinary care, toys and license—is $420." That is a good fact to know before deciding on whether or not you want to get a dog, because it does cost money to take care of one. Next would be feeding, and the amount of food you feed a dog depends how old it is, with more meals when it is only weeks old, and less as it
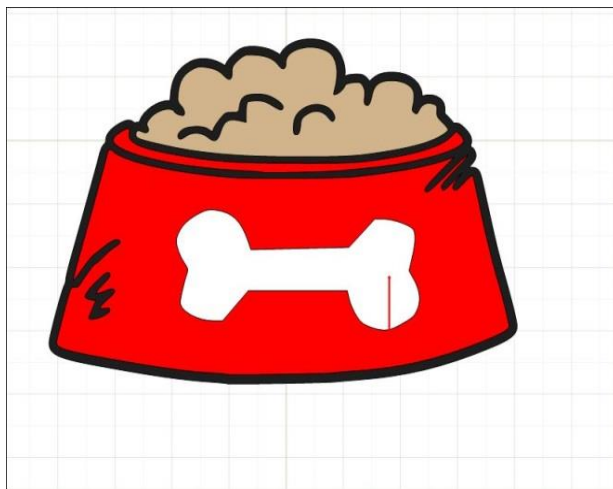

FIGURE 19

passes a year of age. Dogs need exercise, and depending on its age, "Dogs need exercise to burn calories, stimulate their minds, and keep healthy. Exercise also tends to help dogs avoid boredom, which can lead to destructive behaviors." What is also important to know is that the amount of exercise a dog needs is also dependent on its sex and breed. Now this isn't the biggest part

for a maltese, but exercise is important for all dogs. There is a huge list of things you
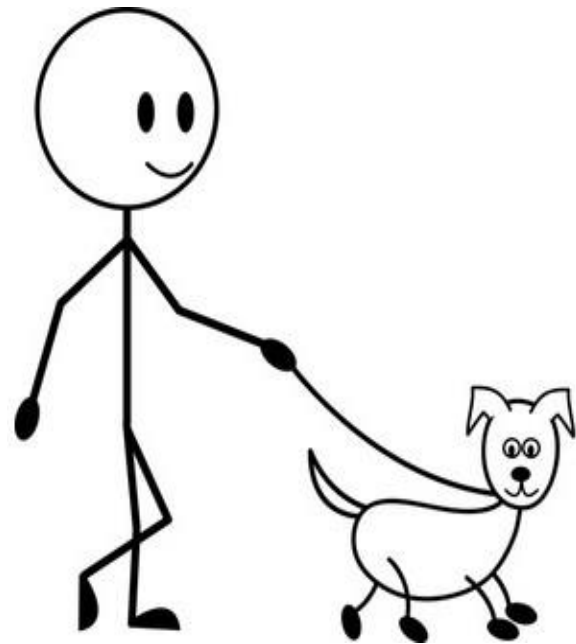

FIGURE 20

need to know in order to take care of a pet dog, but the two things I mentioned above are the most important, but dogs need other things like grooming, handling, and housing.

Pets make good companions for anyone. Dogs are known as "man's best friend", and for good reason, since they were the first animal to be domesticated. Now instead of work, many people choose one as a pet. Now taking care of a dog isn't the easiest job, but at the end of the day, I think many people would agree that they are worth it.

CHAPTER 5

BUCKET LIST

Everyone has their bucket list, their own list of life goals, whether they have it written down or stored away mentally. They might be simple, or ridiculously complex. They could be as general as being successful at something like a job, or be comically specific like if you were planning to throw a blue frisbee off Mt. Everest. The point is everyone has their own goals.

FIGURE 21

Buy a nice 5000 square foot submarine for only 80 million dollars! I've always wanted to ride in a submarine, but with attractive prices like that, I will never own one. Even the closest to realistically possible submarine would be an unpressurized entry level subma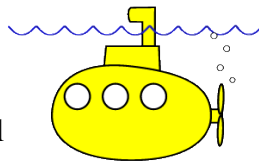rine at 600,000 dollars. Actually even that isn't realistic there is no way I'd be able to scrape up that kind of money for a submarine. Of course there are much cheaper, smaller submarines, but really isn't the point to this goal. However I am fine with just being in one, underwater, and well, there are much like cruise ships, cruises on submarines. I'm not sure if that is what they're called, but they exist.

FIGURE 23

Who doesn't want to jump out of a moving plane? People without parachutes, but that is beside the point since people take benign skydives all the time, though some people do die. Ironically though, even though skydiving seems dangerous it has a fatality rate of, "8 in a million jumps, which is one of the lowest death rates in the sport's history" and that's nice, except for those 8 people. It is reassuring though, however disappointing that the chance is still bigger than winning the lottery. This goal is on my list, because skydiving seems like fun, and it must feel like a rush, partially because it is probably horrifying. Also people in the movies jump out of planes all the time, so why can't I?
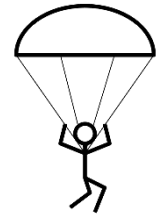
FIGURE 22

Everyone has their goals, otherwise what can they work toward? They can be simple, and or general goals such as goals that everyone have. These two goals I've mentioned above are goals that I won't be meeting soon, but definitely hope to in the future. For one, skydiving age is 18 and up, so I'd have to wait anyway, and the submarine goal, if it is achieved will probably be even later. These goals aren't huge to me, but they're sort of things I'd like to say I've done. How many people can say they've skydived? Actually thats a poor example, as many people have skydived, but, how many people can say they have been in a submarine?

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