When planning this essay, I knew I wanted to make it about creating games, something which has been my passion throughout my life. I created a list of key core values that came into mind (all from the "College Essay Essentials" book given in class), three of which I wanted to focus on: creativity/self-expression, fun, and community. I also wanted to structure my essay in a timeline style that's sectioned off into mini chapters, similar to Octavia Butler's "Positive Obsession" essay. I think this style worked the best for my story, since my life's relation to videogame development played out in a way similar to the "Butterfly effect".

Honestly, the only difficult part about writing the notebook pre-revision reflection was the hand cramps, just letting my thoughts flow onto the page until my wrist became burningly numb and stiff. Unfortunately though, I wrote in cursive, which no one seems to know how to read for some reason (or maybe my handwriting is just really messy, but I digress). Therefore, the feedback from the first revision wasn't too helpful. Fortunately, the feedback for the typed version played out in an entirely different situation. One of the comments even managed to change the entire trajectory of the conclusion about my passion being impacted by AI, stating how I "can still get in there and pursue this passion" and that "there's SUCH a value in what humans can bring". This comment was my main motivation to stray away from the original inspiration for the ending (being from Octavia Butler's "Positive Obsession") and end on a more hopeful note.

I honestly love looking through the Version History of my document, seeing the progress slowly grow day by day. Of course, the main major revisions happened at the start, since I was just copying the contents of the essay in my notebook and plopping it into the computer, but there were still a few notable changes. One of these changes that, to be honest, I'm still not too sure about, was removing the analogy to my story and the domino effect. Originally, in my notebook, I played much more heavily into this metaphor, even ending each section with a visual of a literal domino falling. However, I felt that this was a bit too on the nose, so in a self-conflicting decision, I removed it completely except for a few small mentions in the section paragraph. Besides the big main changes, though, there was lots of polishing that went into this piece. I think the most humorous one was, along with the help from my peers, fixing the spelling for so many words in my essay. It was absolutely absurd the kind of stuff I was misspelling. Besides that, there was also general polishing of improving sentence clarity, bringing the word count down a little, and making my core values a little clearer.

Ultimately, though, I hope this essay will be able to connect to an audience who's in a similar situation; someone creative, passionate, and maybe even liking to code, who is scared of the looming threat of Artificial Intelligence. My hope through writing this essay is, by showing the joy of being creative and saying those encouraging words at the end, that I could be someone's inspiration.