

Creative Code Remix (2026) (Miro journal deliverables due Feb 10, 11:59pm EST)

Description

The practice of recycling or remixing code is a valuable way to learn from more advanced programmers. It allows you to do things you would hardly be able to do from scratch, and it also saves you a lot of time. With the advances in Generative AI, there are now new tools at your disposal to prototype and develop coding projects that are meaningful to you.

In this lab assignment, you will learn to decipher other people's code and extend that code towards your own vision, using Gemini as a resource. You will also learn about **pseudocode** and how to use it in your work. Pseudocode is a form of documentation that explains what an algorithm does. It should be written in natural language, easy to understand, precise, and concise. Throughout this project, document your interactions with the Gemini chatbot. You can do this by taking screenshots of your chat history or copying and pasting your transcript into a Google Doc.

Part I:

First you will find a project you like and work to understand how it operates.

1. Visit sketch repositories and exhibitions (e.g., on [p5js](#) or [OpenProcessing](#)) and select a project.
2. Make a copy of that project so that you can annotate and modify it
3. Copy and paste your project's code into a chat with Gemini (using your TC account) and ask Gemini to explain how the code works to you **using this prompt**: *"I am new to programming. Can you explain how this p5.js program works to me, using some pseudocode to help me understand? Then assume the role of a tutor and ask me to: 'explain the high-level perspective of how this program works.' If I do not understand something well, help me deepen my understanding by explaining it again."*
 - a. If your chosen project has multiple files, you can download the project and upload the files into Gemini instead of copy and pasting the code.
 - b. If you encounter structures and methods that you are unfamiliar with while reading the explanation of your selected project, ask Gemini to explain them to you and/or refer to the platform's documentation or check with classmates and the teaching team via Slack and Zoom.
4. Write your 2-3 sentence high-level interpretation of how your project's program works back to Gemini and ask it to check your understanding. You may need to go back to step #3 and ask for further clarification on any parts of the project's code you still do not understand.

Part II:

After dissecting the original code, you will then transform it into something significantly new and personally meaningful in collaboration with Gemini. Your new code should be able to tell a different visual or multimodal story.

1. Brainstorm ways you would like to change the project. Write or draw sketches of these ideas to include in your post. For example:
 - a. Would you like to add or modify code to allow for new interactions—respond to user inputs in different ways and/or respond to entirely new user inputs?
 - b. Do you want to extend your code to incorporate new outputs—add sound, new visuals, etc.?
2. Create a "remix" copy of your chosen project that you will make your changes in.
3. Ask Gemini to help you make the change(s) you brainstormed to the project's code. I suggest starting with something like: "No longer acting as a tutor, and instead as a technical collaborator, can you help me remix this project? I want to... [insert idea for remix]"
4. Work back and forth with Gemini to change the project's code until you are satisfied with the final project.

Final Deliverables (on Miro)

- On your section of the [Collective Lab Journal](#): **Post links to:**
 - A copy of the original project with your high-level explanation of how it works added in as a comment at the top of the document (this can be directly copied and pasted from what you wrote to the Gemini chatbot in Part I, step #4)
 - Your new project that extends the original
 - A Google document with screenshots or copied and pasted text of your conversations with Gemini about your code.
- On your Miro Card, **post a short screen-recording** of the original project alongside screenshots of its code. Also, post a screen-recording of the new project alongside screenshots of your new code. The screen recordings should be 15-30 seconds long each, just enough so we can see your projects in action!
- On a Miro Card: **Post your reflections on:**
 - Mention 2-3 important technical things (programming concepts, ways to code, new ways of programming) that you learned from remixing to create something new, and how you learned them.
 - What were the two main challenges that you encountered, and how did you overcome them?
 - What did you learn by collaborating with Gemini to make this project?
 - What was made easier? What was made more difficult? Did it make any aspects of coding more confusing? Would you use Gemini again?

Assessment

✓+	Meets all requirements described above and provides extensive graphic and written documentation of the dissection and design process.
✓	Meets all requirements described above.
✓-	Does not meet the requirements described above.