

# final exam

*Prof Bill - May 2016*

What: **CSC 495 Final Exam**

Grading: **10 points**, 10% of your final grade

Due: **Monday Jun 6, 2016 @ 8:00 am**

## Intro

I have a strong affinity for small companies and startups. So with the Final Exam, I want to get you think a bit, just a little bit, about going small/alternative in your career.

**Action** is the foundational key to all success.

- Pablo Picasso, [www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/p/pablopicas120309.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/p/pablopicas120309.html)

## Assignment

It's 2023, a lucky 7 years from today. I've asked you to come back to talk to my current 495 class to discuss your uber-successful career. Things changed dramatically for you way back in 2016 when you pursued one of these areas:

1. You got a job at a **small hi-tech company** located in another state.
2. You made significant contributions to an **open source project**, and then...
3. You co-founded a **hi-tech startup**. Your idea is probably some software, and maybe Rails, but this is not required.

In business, to be a success, you only have to **be right once**. One single solitary time and you are set for life. That's the beauty of the business world.

- Mark Cuban, [www.blogmaverick.com/2005/05/30/success-and-motivation-you-only-have-to-be-right-once/](http://www.blogmaverick.com/2005/05/30/success-and-motivation-you-only-have-to-be-right-once/)

I'd like you to describe for my 2023 class some of the important steps you took to achieve your success. Fortunately, you saved the links from the research you did back in aught-sixteen.

Some details on your paper:

- The whole description should be brief, 1-2 pages. Please use the past tense to describe anything related to 2016. It's 2023 now, eh.
- Describe your idea/product that got you start, and then how things went over the course of 7 years. Feel free to flex your creative muscles here.
- After that description, please include at least 5 references you found (and liked) that helped your career. These can be websites, books, blog posts, people, etc.
- **Team option!** If you can glom a team of 3 or more 495-ers together, then your essay is still only 1-2 pages, and you only need 10 references for your entire team. That's win-win!
- At the top of the first page, include your name(s) in the upper right corner. Just use your first name and last initial (Bill K) because I'd like to post these on the website. If you're a team, please sort your references by team member.
- During our Final Exam class period, you'll discuss your ideas, your success stories, and references with the group.

Here's an example of a reference. It's a link (or a book or a person or whatever) and a short description. (sorry, you can't use this one now)

[www.1871.com/](http://www.1871.com/)

1871 was "Chicago's entrepreneurial hub for digital startups". We knew that 1871 was very popular back in 2016, so we attended a few of their workshops. This all happened before the big scandal that shuttered the place in 2020. At one of the meetings, we struck up a conversation with some other developers there and emerged with a stronger tech team. While we had mixed feelings about 1871, especially looking at their bloated, weasel-y website, meeting nerds with similar interests really helped us get started.

Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without **passion.**

- Georg WF Hegel, [www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/g/georgwilhe101479.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/g/georgwilhe101479.html)

## Grading

I'll be grading you on your creative ideas, story, and some good references.

Please submit your paper to me (email me the PDF) by **Mon Jun 6, 8:00 am**, so I can post it on the website.

We'll meet during our scheduled Final Exam class time (Mon Jun 6, 1-3pm) and share the ideas and references we found.

thanks... yow, bill

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

- Walt Disney, [www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/w/waltdisney131640.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/w/waltdisney131640.html)