## # Acknowledgments

This project sprung from a seminar paper I wrote in Carl Grant's course on Black intellectual thought and education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Michael Farris from Texas Tech University noted the potential to turn the paper's historical and theoretical argument into an ethnographic study of Black coders. My path was clear, and along the journey I formed other relationships that helped make this book appear on readers' computer screens and bookshelves. Amanda Captain introduced me to Clearwater Academy, its instructors, and its director. Richard and Jessica gifted me their trust and generosity to visit and mingle with their adult learners. My participation in this computer code bootcamp taught me the ins and outs of software development, and what it takes to uplift people in a country that continues to do the bare minimum to protect its most vulnerable marginalized communities. The Black adult learners featured in this book gave me lots of their time and energy during my visits to Clearwater Academy. Some participants continued to be generous after they had graduated when they had no obligation to do so. I thank them for permitting me to commiserate with them over bad news and to celebrate with them when blessings finally came their way. The small window into their lives as Black people running the marathon towards racial equality have been enshrined in these pages. I pray these words represent their truths.

Many mentors have influenced my thinking and writing. In the Master of Liberal Arts Program at Auburn University at Montgomery, Elizabeth Woodworth introduced me to composition and rhetoric and offered me the sage advice that not everything written needs to be published; some things are written for yourself. Bob Evans taught me to trust my own writing and voice and not mimic the complicated styles of the scholars I read. Whenever I revise my work, I hear his slow, friendly voice guiding me through the muck of my writing in search of clarity and precision. Kate Vieira was the principal guide for the dissertation and a great professional role model and mentor after my graduation. Her advice for writing book proposals, her sample book proposal, and her book Writing for Love and Money: How Migration Drives Literacy Learning in Transnational Families taught me how to transform a dissertation into a monograph. Kate steered a wonderful dissertation committee: Christa Olson, Morris Young, Matthew Berland, and John Diamond left me several notes, which I incorporate in this book. Annette Vee's Coding Literacy: How Computer Programming Changes Writing put me on this journey, and I'm happy Annette tagged along as an early reader of my work. Annette's

experiences navigating the publishing world helped build a foundation for stepping into this difficult and mysterious area of academia. Stephanie Kerschbaum organized a peer-to-peer book writing group in summer 2020. Her mentorship helped me write the book proposal while my book writing group friends Karrieann Soto Vega, Erin Bahl, Timothy Oleksiak, and Derek Sparby gifted me community, accountability, and mutual support. This book's publication happened because I serendipitously posted a question in the *Kairos* editorial board Slack channel about how to write a book chapter. Thanks to Cheryl Ball's editorial pedagogy, I fulfilled my dream to write an open-access book that everyone can read. Finally, my thanks to Christopher Andrews, Chen Chen, and Lydia Wilkes for continuing the editorial leadership of the #writing book series. And, of course, thanks to Mike Palmquist for being a leader in peer-reviewed open-access publishing!

The University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) and the English Department have been happy homes for intellectual productivity and professional development. My senior colleagues in English-Jane Greer, Ginny Blanton, and Jeff Rydberg-Cox-helped me think about what kind of teacher and researcher I wanted to be. The Diane Filion Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence (CAFE) Faculty Writing Groups and its more intense Faculty Writing Initiative Summer Retreat kept me disciplined in my writing and reading. These events also introduced me to wonderful colleagues across campus. Learning about their research and their writing processes have inspired me to keep writing, even when I'm not motivated to sit at my laptop. I cannot name everyone, but I'm particularly grateful for Jennifer Phegley, Sirisha Naidu, Toya Like, Michelle Smirnova, Lori Sexton, Jennifer Frangos, Alberto Villamandos, Michelle Maher, Jess Gantt-Shafer, Steve Simon, Deja Beamon, Chris Garmon, and Anita Skarbek. I joined other informal writing groups with colleagues from the University of Kansas, Gene T. Parker, III and Angela Gist-Mackey. From the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Shatrunjay Mall and I met weekly on Zoom to cover the distance between us for one-on-one writing sessions. Despite the significant time zone differences (sometimes by 10 hours) we stayed committed to the practice of writing in community. Finally, the Emeritus College at UMKC partially funded this book with their Early Career Faculty Award.

Colleagues from other institutions gave me small kindnesses over the years. Eric Pritchard sent me scholarship on Black women's literacy narratives, which influenced my analysis in Chapter 1. Jason Tham's incredible writing productivity and inspired me to keep writing. My brother and confidante Chris Castillo has touched all parts of my life. There are many planets in my solar system, but Chris is one of the closest to my Sun. The geographical distance means nothing because the love keeps us close. Many graduate students listened to drafts of my work, including graduate students at the 2022 Computers and Writing Conference in Greenville, North Carolina; graduate students from the Society for Technical Communication Texas Tech Adult learner Chapter in March 2022; and graduate students attending my Hutton Lectures in Rhetoric & Composition talk at Purdue University in November 2022. Your encouraging words, notes of possible citations, and questions have shaped my analysis in this book.

I have read a lot about computer programming and software development for the last eight years, but nothing could match the professional insights of my friends working in the industry. Xiao He, Jon Tan, Jacob Gresham, and my distant brother Brian Whiting.

From happy hours (virtual and in-person) to holiday dinners, Jason Rocha and Virginia Schwarz have made me the person that I am today. Jason gave me life advice galore; Gin demonstrated love and care. And to my biological and chosen family, thank you for your love and grace.