

CSc 210: Java Programming Style Guidelines

The Java code you write for this course will be required to adhere to the following (not super strict) standards. It will be expected that any code submitted for a grade is well formatted, easily readable, and efficient code.

Essentially, you should follow these points:

1. Your problems and programs you write to solve them must be appropriately abstracted and decomposed. Often reused portions of code must be abstracted into methods that can be called in many places. There should be no repeated blocks of code. Your programs should be decomposed into many methods that solve small problems which join together to solve the larger overall problem posed.
2. Your code must be easily readable. What does this mean? You should have good and consistent indentation, you should have good naming heuristics for classes, names and variables, and you should have good spacing.
3. Your code should be well documented. You should have a header comment at the start of your programs listing your name, your section leader's name, your section number, and the description of your program / purpose of the assignment. You **must** follow this format:

```
/*
 * Your first and last name
 * Your section leader's name
 * Your section #
 *
 * Assignment # - Program Name, CSc 210, Spring 2017
 * Short description of what your program does
 */
```

4. Your code should have comments before every method. If you write these comments as you write your methods, it helps you determine their purpose and what they should actually do. Comments should include what the parameters are used for and what value (if any) the method returns. A **suggested** format is the following:

```
/*
 * Method Name
 * Purpose of method
 *
 * Arguments:
 * type name - Purpose
 * ...
 * type name - Purpose
 *
 * Return Value - Description
 */
```

5. You should (hopefully) write your code to the point where it is self documenting. However, sometimes this is not possible. If there are complex portions of your code that are difficult to understand at first glance, make sure to comment and document them to make them easier to understand.

These guidelines are a good starting point to work from as you develop your style. Again, these are very basic and loose, but are important points to follow to write good code. If you ever need a further point of reference, Google has composed a set of style guidelines they use within their company that you may refer to:

<https://google.github.io/styleguide/javaguide.html>