

Style guide

This is a guide I wrote for a different collaboration. If it is useful, use it, if not, don't. ☺

This document lays out guidelines and best practices for writing readable, hand-offable code. Keep in mind that someone (either you or someone else) will need to read and understand your code in the future.

This guide is a work in progress. If something could be more clear or something needs to be added, consider adding to this guide.

General rules

- Do use comments. Clear and concise is preferred but if in doubt write more.
- Empty lines should be empty, commented lines should have comments.
- Use whitespace. There should be a space after commas. Spaces around `<-` and logicals where it aids in viewing.
- Use the outline tools Rstudio has built in that utilize commented lines ending in repeated `-` and `=`.
- When possible use the automatic indentation.
- Don't use CAPSLOCK, it reads as angry.
- Try not to use abbreviations or acronyms. This was good practice when there were character limits per line but this is no longer the case.

Specific naming conventions

1. Iterative variable should have a uncapitalized descriptor as the beginning and Iterator as the ending of their name. They should be removed after the loop they are iterating for. For example:

```
for (articleIterator in 1:NumberOfArticles) {  
  ...  
}  
rm(articleIterator)
```

2. Persistent variables should be capitalized and each word in their name should be capitalized. These names should be descriptive. Try not to use abbreviations or acronyms. No underscores. For example:

```
LargeDataFrame <- data.frame()
```

3. Function names should be all lowercase and use underscores to separate words. For example:

```
get_data <- function(value1, value2)
```

4. Temporary variables should end in Tmp capitalized and each word in their name should be capitalized. No underscores. They should be removed when no longer in use. For example:

```
dataToAddTmp <- get_data(value1, value2)  
LargeDataFrame[articleIterator,] <- dataToAdd  
  
rm(dataToAddTmp)
```