PyCharm, as an IDE, has a few useful features including color coding of object types, ‘smart complete’, developer tools, and other automatic code editing tools.

For example, there is an in-built Python template that color codes parts of the code within the editor to make the code a bit easier to read. In the Darcula theme for example, strings are green, keywords are orange, variables are a shade of grey, and functions are purple. Errors and warnings are also marked in-line.

Also, PyCharm has a Debug mode to help set break points and work through the code line by line. While not needed in this assignment a debugger is very useful. Personally, I doubt I’ve ever written a big loop without getting it wrong at least once and always rely on the debugger to trace my errors.

Lastly, PyCharm has a Scratch Pad. A scratch pad is nice because it allows you to prototype code or just take notes, e.g., create a to-do list, without affecting the working project.