**Sample IPO CHART**

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| **main() Function**  **Input** | **Processing** | **Output** |
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A problem can be broken down into 3 components:  
1. **Input** - any data that is needed to solve the problem  
2. **Processing** - the task that will be carried out to solve the problem  
3. **Output** - the end result of the problem

The IPO (Input, Processing & Output) chart can be used to analyze a problem. This is a table with three columns, which represent three components: input, output and processing.

To complete an IPO Chart:

1. Write the input (what is needed from the person using the algorithm).
2. Write the output (the end result that is stated in the problem).
3. In the processing column **a**sk yourself the following question, “What do I have to do with the inputs in order to produce the desired output?” Then write down what should be done.