

Worksheet for Computer-Graded Essay Challenge

This packet describes an interesting problem relating to astronauts and Python programming. Here it is:

A teacher needs help grading student essays. The teacher wonders whether or not a computer can be used to take the “first look” at the essays in order to label each essay as either “strong” or “weak.”

Your job is to design this computer program. We will help you with the actual coding; we want you to focus on coming up with an **idea** for solving this problem.

Your program does not need to grade the essay the way a human would. Even professional programmers don’t yet know how to program computers to do that. However, your program should be able to analyze an essay and decide whether it is well-written (“strong”) or poorly-written (“weak”).

Before writing any code, please read the attached essays and answer the following questions:

1. In your opinion, which essay is better? List two reasons why.

2. What words do you see in either essay which you feel do not belong in a formal essay?

CIRCLE THEM AND THEN WRITE THEM HERE:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. Do you think a computer could check for those words? If so, how?

4. Which Python reserved word can be used to check whether or not a string contains a certain word?

5. Write a list of five (5) things your code will need to do. BE SPECIFIC!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Code resources for this project:

<https://github.com/stackmaps/astronauts>