

Programming Documentation and Style Requirements

The following are required for each program that you submit in this class.

1. Header Comments

Place a header block at the top of every program. The header must have this format:

```
// CS 271 - put lab # here
// Program Name:  put program name here
// Author:        put your name here
// Date:          put today's date here
// Purpose:       one or two sentences to describe what the program will do
```

2. Inline Comments

Place inline comments throughout the code to explain what is happening. All comments should be placed so that they do not interfere with readability of the code. Except for comments documenting closing braces (see # 4), I prefer inline comments to be on a line separate from the code.

All comments must be single-line, beginning with //.

Comments are not for decoration. They are intended to help you and other programmers understand what the program is doing.

3. Formatting to Improve Readability

- Leave blank lines between lines of code to improve readability.
- Put a space on both sides of **all** binary operators.

```
x=y+2;           Bad!
```

```
x = y + 2;       Good!
```

- Put a space after each (and a space before each).

```
if ( x < 3 )
```

```
void myMethod( int param1, int param2 )
```

- Use meaningful identifiers (variable names, function names, etc). Camel case is preferred with multiple-word variable names.

4. Curly Braces

- Comment **all** closing curly braces with a meaningful comment. Examples:

```
    } // end if  
  
} // end main
```

5. Alignment and Indentation

- Use an indentation of 3, 4, or 5 spaces (your choice). Don't use the tab key to indent.
- You may choose one of the two following styles for alignment of curly braces.

```
// Style 1  
  
int main ( void ) {  
  
    // body of main  
  
} // end main
```

```
// Style 2  
  
int main ( void )  
  
{  
  
    // body of main  
  
} // end main
```