**Exercise 16: Reading and Writing Files**

1. If you do not understand this, go back through and use the comment trick to get it squared away in your mind. One simple English comment above each line will help you understand or at least let you know what you need to research more.

**#Get the argument ana stores in variable file\_name**

**file\_name = ARGV.first**

**#Printing the file name**

**puts "We're going to erase #{file\_name}"**

**#print the Line**

**puts "If you don't want that, hit CTRL-C (^C)."**

**#print the line**

**puts "If you do want that, hit RETURN."**

**#get the input**

**$stdin.gets**

**#print just line**

**puts "Opening the file..."**

**#open the file with write only operation and it automatically truncates the content of file**

**target = open(file\_name, 'w')**

**#printing line**

**puts "Truncating the file..."**

**#Truncated the targeted file**

**target.truncate(0)**

**#get the line**

**puts "Now I'm going to ask you for three lines."**

**#print line1**

**print "line1.."**

**#Get line1**

**line1 =$stdin.gets.chomp**

**#print line2**

**print "line2.."**

**#Get line2**

**line2 =$stdin.gets.chomp**

**#print line3**

**print "line3.."**

**#Get line3**

**line3 =$stdin.gets.chomp**

**#Write the line**

**puts "I'm going to write these to the file."**

**#Write the content to the targeted file**

**target.write(line1)**

**#Printing the escape character**

**target.write("\n")**

**#Write the content to the targeted file**

**target.write(line2)**

**#Printing the escape character**

**target.write("\n")**

**#Write the content to the targeted file**

**target.write(line3)**

**#Printing the escape characters**

**target.write("\n")**

**# target.write ("#{line1}\n#{line2}\n#{line3}")**

**puts "And finally, we close it."**

**target.close**

1. Write a script similar to the last exercise that uses read and argv to read the file you just created.

**filename = ARGV.first**

**txt = open(filename)**

**print txt.read**

**txt.close**

**puts "enter the file name again"**

**txt = $stdin.gets.chomp**

**file = open(txt)**

**print file.read**

**file.close**

1. There's too much repetition in this file. Use strings, formats, and escapes to print out line1, line2, and line3 with just one target.write() command instead of six.

**target.write ("#{line1}\n#{line2}\n#{line3}")**

1. Find out why we had to pass a 'w' as an extra parameter to open. Hint: open tries to be safe by making you explicitly say you want to write a file.

**When we pass ‘w’ as an extra parameter to open, we’re telling Ruby we want to open the file in Write Only mode.**

1. If you open the file with 'w' mode, then do you really need the target.truncate()? Read the documentation for Ruby's open function and see if that's true.

**No, we don’t need target.truncate() for ‘w’ mode.  This mode automatically truncates the existing file to zero length or creates a new file for writing.**