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def count_words(text):  
    # Remove leading and trailing whitespaces  
    text = text.strip()  
    if not text:  
        return 0 # If text is empty, return 0  
  
    # Split the text into words based on whitespace  
    words = text.split()  
  
    # Return the length of the list of words  
    return len(words)  
  
def main():  
    print("Welcome to the Word Counter Program!")  
    print("Please enter a sentence or paragraph:")  
  
    # Prompt user for input  
    user_input = input("> ")  
  
    # Count words  
    word_count = count_words(user_input)  
  
    # Display word count  
    print(f"Word count: {word_count}")  
  
if __name__ == "__main__":  
    main()
```