Summary: Writing Your Own Functions

This summary will talk about functions and their role in programming.

Functions are basically modules, except that they are specifically for returning a data type. Functions must have a return statement otherwise it is not a function.

The first line of a function is the function header, which specifies the data type of the value that is returned from the function, the name of the function and any arguments/parameters that get passed into the function. Following the header is the body, which is comprised of one or more statements that are executed when the function is called. Lastly, after the statements have made its modifications, the function must have a return statement at the end of the body to output the change.

When a data type has been assigned to the function, it must return that data type otherwise it will produce an error message. Functions are for making changes to a program and output that change which then can be used in other parts of the program.

Functions provide the same benefits as modules: they simplify code, increase the speed of development, reduce repetitive code, makes it easier to test the code, and easier for other programmers to read your code.