Dear students,

My name is Russell and I will be your Supplemental Instruction Leader for CS-1400 this semester. I will be leading SI sessions every week designed to help you succeed in the class and gain a better understanding of the course material. Take it from me, taking CS-1400 online is very difficult. I took this class online and earned an A, but it was a huge challenge for me. You will need to be disciplined and highly self-motivated in order to earn a good grade. If you study the course material every week, do every lab and project, and make use of the tutoring labs you will be successful. I believe that regularly attending my SI sessions will provide a huge benefit to your comprehension of the course material. CS-1400 is one of the most failed classes on campus, but I am here to help you succeed.

UVU has recently incorporated Supplemental Instruction in classes that traditionally have high fail rates. SI Instruction has already made an overwhelmingly positive impact on improving student’s pass rates. Attending SI sessions for my CS-1410 class last semester made a huge difference for me in my ability to thoroughly understand the concepts. I truly believe that they will be worth your time, so please at least come to one session and give it a try. My hope is that you find it helpful enough to come to at least one session every week.

To be clear, Supplemental Instruction is not tutoring, and it absolutely is not me lecturing to you for 50 minutes. My job is to lead an interactive peer-to-peer learning environment. I will explain concepts that you are having trouble understanding, I will answer questions, I will show you examples, but primarily I will be encouraging your peers to assist you and for you to teach your peers. My goal is to help you work collaboratively to better understand the material and to clarify the concepts that you are struggling to fully understand.

Most of you are probably pursuing a degree in Computer Science or are considering it. The contents of this class are the foundation for not only your time here at UVU but your career after school. You want to get an A in this class, and more importantly, you want to really understand the material. If you are like me you will probably hate programming a lot more than you love it at first, and you will probably spend hours and hours stuck trying to finish some of the labs and projects. If you put the time and especially the effort into this course you will find the results to be rewarding. You will feel so proud when you finally get your code to work. Please make the time to attend my SI sessions and make use of the tutoring lab. Don’t spend your weekends struggling to finish a project. Learn the material, ask questions on the forum, and learn with other students in the SI sessions.

It will make your semester so much easier if you get the face-to-face interaction with your peers and learn together through the SI sessions. It is my job to do everything I can to help you succeed in this course, and I truly hope you all are successful. I am very excited for this semester and this opportunity to be your SI Leader.  
  
Sincerely,  
Russell