6 THINGS TO TRY

When You're Stuck on a Problem

1 Make sure you've identified the right problem. It's easy to misunderstand what a problem is looking for, so discuss the requirements with a neighbor and reread the problem statement.

2 Write out pseudocode describing the logic of how you would approach the problem. Be sure to describe every step—don't take any logical leaps for granted!

3 Identify the data type that you are working with at each step or layer. When using print statements, include some text to clarify which output is coming from where.

4 Use Google! Use keywords to summarize your question and don't forget to include "Python" in your search terms. At least one of the results should include code snippets that will help you solve your problem.

5 Talk to your neighbor, or even just talk aloud to yourself—we won't think you're crazy. Coding is not a solo activity. Hearing things out loud and talking things through is a great way to solve problems.

6 Take a deep breath, grab a drink of water, or take a brief walk. Getting away from your computer for a minute can be all it takes to get a fresh take on the problem.