The development of a function in R represents the next level of R programming, beyond executing commands at the command line and writing scripts containing multiple R expressions. When writing R functions, one has to consider the following things:

1. Functions are used to **encapsulate** a sequence of expressions that are executed together to achieve a specific goal. A single function typically does "one thing well"---often taking some input and the generating output that can potentially be handed off to another function for further processing. Drawing the lines where functions begin and end is a key skill for writing functions. When writing a function, it's important to ask yourself *what do I want to encapsulate*?

2. There is going to be a **user** who will desire the ability to modify certain aspects of your code to match their specific needs or application. Aspects of your code that can be modified often become *function arguments* that can be specified by the user. This user can range from yourself (at a later date) to people you have never met using your code for purposes you never dreamed of. When writing any function it's important to ask *what will the user want to modify in this function*? Ultimately, the answer to this question will lead to the function's **interface**.

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