

# CS2308

## Foundations of CS II Style Guide

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Code should be easily readable and should expose the intention of the author. The guidelines below should be used when working on Coding Projects and Weekly Assignments.

1. Keep every line of code shorter than 80 characters.
2. Give variables meaningful names. The name should make the use of the variable obvious.
3. Indent every block of code by one tab or four spaces from its parent statement.
4. Comments should be included to explain every “complicated” action.
5. Every file should include an author, collaborator, and date comment.
6. Functions should have one “purpose” and the use of the function should be obvious without reading its definition. The following comments should be included with every function other than *main*:
  - a) Name- a plain name for the function not in snake or camel case.
  - b) Parameters- the datatype, name, and use of every parameter to the function.
  - c) Returns- the value returned by the function or “None” if the function is void.
  - d) Side Effects- any change the functions makes to the program (e.g. updating a global variable, updating a by-reference parameter, or overwriting a file).
7. Avoid code duplication. The same statement should not appear in multiple branches of a program.
8. Variable and function names can be in snake\_case or camelCase, but pick one and be consistent.

## Example of Confusing Code:

```
//no authorship comments
#include<iostream>
#include<fstream>

using namespace std;

//missing function comments
float foo(float a){
    ofstream f("out.txt");
    //function has two "purposes"
    f << a+273.15;
    return 32.0 + (a * (9.0/5.0));
}

int main(){
    //meaningless variable name
    float t = 20;
    //missing comment. what does this loop do?
    for(int i = 0; i < 7; i++){
        //confusing indentation
        if(i%2!=1){cout << foo(t) << endl;t++;}
        //duplicated code
        else t++;}

    return 0;
}
```