Input / Output Basics

- **Open**: Before reading or writing, must open file
- **Filename**: Must provide the name of the file
- **Mode**: When opening, specify the type of file, and the type of operation intended for the file
- **Close**: When done, be sure to close file

Dealing with normal text files will involve the following actions by your application:

- **Opening the file.** The file will need to be opened before you can read or write to it. When opening a file, you will specify the filename, and your intended mode—read, write, or both.

- **Closing the file.** When your application has completed its file operations, be sure to close the file. Leaving the file open may not cause problems for a while, but lingering references to files that have not been appropriately closed can cause problems with your operating system over time.

- **Filename.** When opening a file, you will provide the filename. You will need to specify the path to the file as well; it is a good idea to consider using relative paths, rather than fixed ones, so that your application can run wherever it is installed.

- **Mode.** The intended operations to be performed on the file must be specified, such as read, write, or append. Read is the default operation. You will also need to specify if the file is binary. The default file type is text.