Python 1 - DAT-119 - Spring 2019

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Homework - Week 8 – Chapter 6 SA questions 1,2,3,4

Answer the **chapter** **6 short answer questions** 1, 2, 3, and 4.

1. **Describe the three steps that must be taken when a file is used by a program**
   1. Open the file: creates a connection between the file and the program. Opening an output file usually creates the file on the disk and allows the program to write data to it, while opening an input file allows the program to read data from the file
   2. Process the file: data is either written to the file (if output file) or read from the file (if input file)
   3. Close the file: the file must be closed because closing a file disconnects the file from the program
2. **Why should a program close a file when it’s finished using it?**
   1. Closing a file disconnects the program from the file. In some cases, failure to close an output file can cause a loss of data. The process of closing an output file forces any unsaved data that remains in the buffer to be written to the file.
3. **What is a file’s read position? Where is the read position when a file is first opened for reading?**
   1. A file’s read position marks the location of the next item that will be read from the file. When the file is first opened for reading the read position is set to the beginning of the file.
4. **If an existing file is opened in append mode, what happens to the file’s existing contents?**
   1. If the file already exists it will not be erased. When data is written to the file it will be written at the end of the file’s current contents.