

Teacher Comment Project

Here are some things that often go into teacher comments:

1. A short description of the course.
2. A description of student attributes (work ethic, collaboration, humor, perseverance through difficulty, seeks out extra help, etc.)
3. A summary of some key exam grades or essay excerpts.
4. A suggestion for what to improve on or what to do for extra enrichment.
5. A summary of the semester grade and a closing sentence.

Here are some common errors that teachers dread making when they copy and paste:

1. Writing the wrong student name!
2. Getting the wrong pronoun! (He/she/they, him/her/theirs, etc.)

Your task:

1. Take in a teacher spreadsheet file (teacher.csv) that contains all of the info on each student (perhaps you will need columns for student attributes, essay excerpts or grades, etc.)
2. Write a personalized comment to a separate file for each student's name (kanye.txt, miley.txt, etc.)
3. Make the teacher's comments even better than the original! Add something of value that is not already in the teacher's comment. What as a student would you want to see in the comments that would make them for informative to you?

Some considerations:

1. As with real teacher comments, the more personalized and descriptive you can be about each student, the better.
2. You want your program to be dynamic and generalizable to other students besides the two sample comments given.
3. Your program needs to be READABLE, since it will be used by someone other than you. Therefore, it needs to be commented well AND you need to make use of functions for readability. For example, if you write code to make sure that pronouns are correct, you will put that calculation separately in a function called "pronouns".
4. In your groups, each person should be in charge of different functions. Then, all of your functions need to work together to create the final product.

Here are two of Lauren's Calculus comments:

This semester in AP AB Calculus, we covered the topics of limits, continuity, and differentiation and began the study of integration, which we will continue into the second semester. In addition to daily homework and frequent quizzes, we had three in-class unit tests, a cumulative final exam, and two projects, one on predicting stock prices using derivatives and one on modeling fluid flow using related rates and Torricelli's Law.

Miley has a stellar work ethic and student habits. She faithfully completes the nightly homework and is fully engaged in class discussion. She is comfortable asking questions during the larger class discussion and also works well in small groups with her peers. In addition, when she has trouble on a new concept, she stops by my office outside of class and knows exactly what to ask in order to clear up her misunderstanding.

Miley has a bit more difficulty on in-class exams; she has received B's on most tests, including an 80% of her cumulative final exam. I would encourage Miley to come see me for a bit of extra practice before in-class exams. I can help her to figure out which problems she has down and which problems she needs to practice more. We should practice improving her performance on these so that she can do well on the AP examination in May.

The jump in difficulty level from precalculus to AP Calculus is significant, and Miley has managed the additional challenge well. She earns a B+ for the semester and I look forward to her continued success during the remainder of the year.

This semester in AP AB Calculus, we covered the topics of limits, continuity, and differentiation and began the study of integration, which we will continue into the second semester. In addition to daily homework and frequent quizzes, we had three in-class unit tests, a cumulative final exam, and two projects, one on predicting stock prices using derivatives and one on modeling fluid flow using related rates and Torricelli's Law.

Kanye has a stellar work ethic and student habits. He faithfully completes the nightly homework and is fully engaged in class discussion. He is not comfortable asking questions during the larger class discussion but works well in small groups with his peers. He has not needed to come to see me outside of class for extra help, as he grasps the content easily.

Kanye's performance in the course this semester has been phenomenal; he has received A's on all tests, including a 97% of his cumulative final exam. I know that Kanye could use more challenge in the course so I would encourage him to start reading the proofs in the textbook and stopping by during my office hours to chat about them. He has significant potential to go further in mathematics in college, and proofs will be a major aspect of the courses.

The jump in difficulty level from precalculus to AP Calculus is significant, and Kanye has excelled with this increased challenge. He earns an A for the semester and I look forward to his continued success during the remainder of the year.