("Garbage in, garbage out" is not a law of nature, but a commentary on how well principles (1) and (2) are followed in practice.)

- (3) Read input until end-of-file or marker, not by count.
- (4) Identify input errors and recover if possible. Do not stop on the first error. Do not simply ignore errors.
- (5) Use mnemonic input and output. Make input easy to prepare (and easy to prepare correctly). Echo the input and any defaults onto the output; make output self-explanatory.
- (6) Localize I/O instead of spreading it all over the program. Hide the details of end of file, buffering, etc., in functions.
- (7) Make sure that program structure reflects the data the program processes.