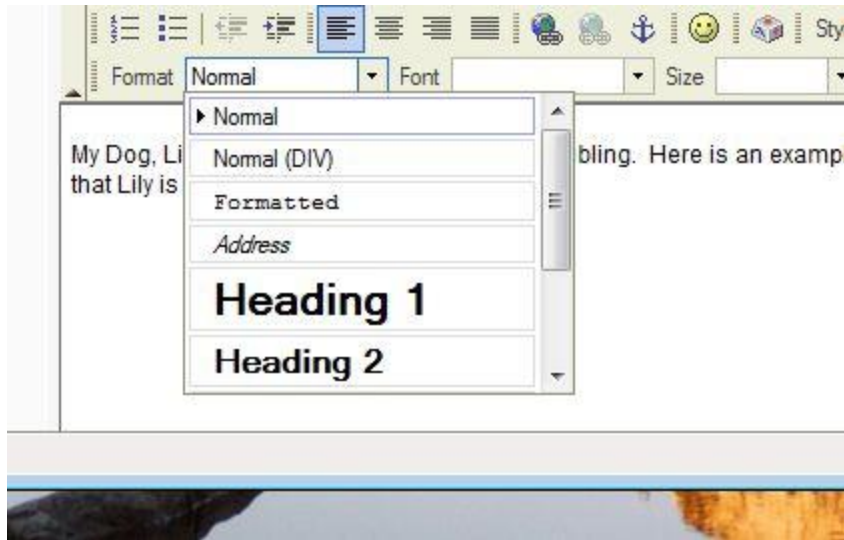# Pasting Code Into Questions

Since this is a programming class, you will often have occasion to post *code fragments* - snippets of your program or of a program in the lecture. When posting code, it is essential that you use the `Formatted` option in the drop-down **Format** menu at the top of your posting window.
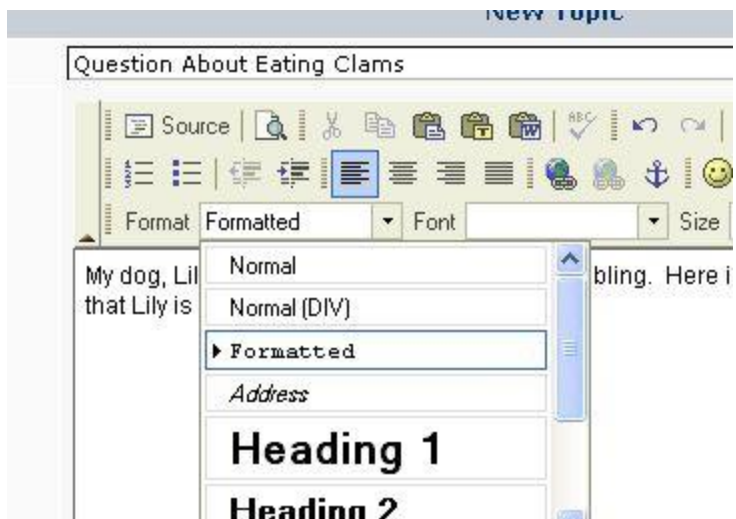
Note

Although Etudes works with **Firefox**, **Internet Explorer or Chrome**, *only* **Firefox** allows you to paste code fragments according to the steps below. Therefore, if you are not using **Firefox**, you must download it if-and-when you plan on pasting code into your questions, be they public or private. This is required if you want me to answer the question.

Furthermore, you cannot get `Formatted` text simply by selecting normal text you have previously pasted and afterwards, selecting the `Formatted` style. Instead, here is the best -- and for now, only -- method for placing code fragments into messages:
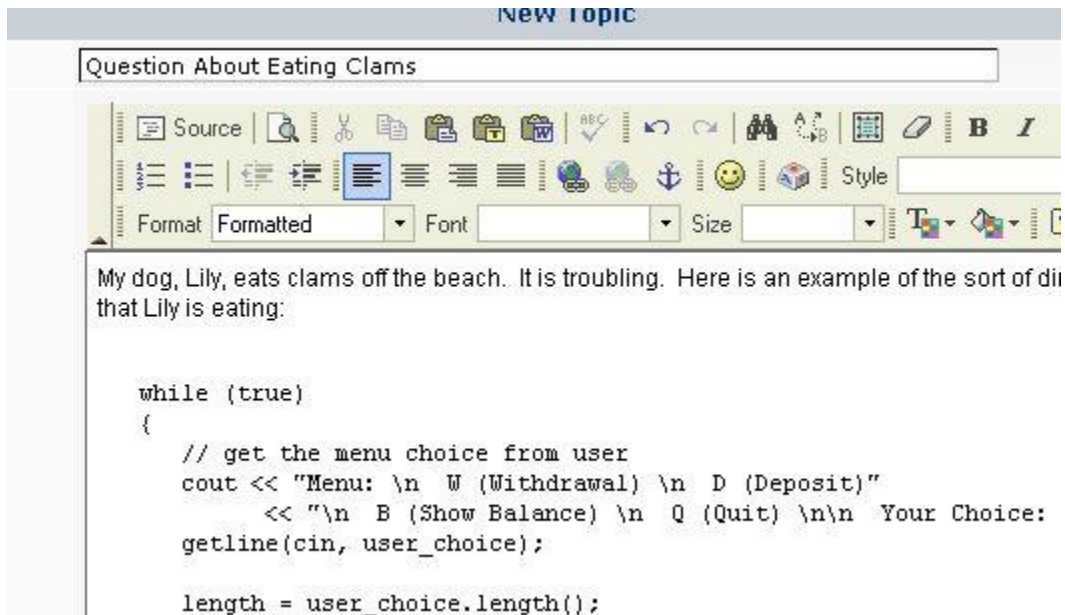
1. Make sure the code fragment is perfectly indented (see style rules) and has all tabs replaced by appropriate spaces so I and others can read it easily. *It is considered **rude** to ask for help on a program and give incorrectly indented samples.*
2. (Eclipse users can skip this step). If your compiler has color highlighted text in its source, like Visual Studio on a Windows system, you will have to first copy and paste the code into a different application, like *Notepad*. (Eclipse is okay) This removes the color information that confuses the Course Management Software. Then you can copy it from *Notepad* in preparation to paste into your discussion window. It takes an extra three seconds total to go through this step.
3. Before you paste into your discussion or message window, type the first part of your question as you normally would, but manually select **Normal** in the **Formatted** box. This may or may not change anything, but do it anyway - it will be required for Firefox or the rest won't work correctly:

4. Hit the enter key so you are at the start of a fresh, blank line (separate from your question).
5. Select the **Formatted** menu item. Before pasting your code the screen will look like this:

6. Paste your code. It will look something like this if you followed the instructions:

New Topic

Question About Eating Clams

My dog, Lily, eats clams off the beach. It is troubling. Here is an example of the sort of di[r]
that Lily is eating:

```
while (true)
{
    // get the menu choice from user
    cout << "Menu: \n  W (Withdrawal) \n  D (Deposit)"
         << "\n  B (Show Balance) \n  Q (Quit) \n\n  Your Choice:
    getline(cin, user_choice);

    length = user_choice.length();
```

7. If you want to continue typing normal text after the paste, you must hit the enter key again and then manually select **Normal**. Even if your paste leaves you on a new line after the code fragment, enter another new line with *enter* first, then select **Normal**, before continuing to type your question or comment.

For example, if I wanted to ask about this code fragment:

```
int main()
{
    // declare a couple Pet objects
    Pet mikesDog, noisyDog;

    // fill in the fields or members of mikesDog
    mikesDog.petsName = "Jerry of Westhampton";
    mikesDog.ownersName = "Michael Loceff";
    mikesDog.weight = 8.5;
    mikesDog.numberOfLimbs = 4;
```

I would paste this code from my source file into *Notepad*, then copy it from *Notepad*, move to my question window, type my question, select **Normal**, hit **enter** to put the cursor on its own blank line, select the **formatted** option, paste the code, hit **enter** again if I have more of my question to type, select **Normal**, type the question, and finally, if the rest of the question appears not to be **Normal**, select that (only) and select **Normal**. Whew.

You can re-edit your posts after you submit them. If they look different than you thought they would, do that.

Note

Do not try to type code fragments directly into the course web site's discussion window. Always prepare your code fragment first in your compiler or Notepad and copy/paste from there into the web site's discussion window.