



Python OOP: Docstrings



Docstrings



Key Takeaways

- Docstrings

- Docstrings = Documentation Strings
- Used to document functions, class, modules, and methods.
- They are “linked” to the element that they describe by the `__doc__` attribute. This attribute contains the docstring and you can access it in the interactive shell and with the `help()` function.
- They can be:
 - One-line Docstrings
 - Only for very simple descriptions.
 - Multi-line Docstrings
 - For more thorough descriptions.
- They are the first statement after the header.
- They start and end with triple quotes (`"""`).
- You should include:
 - A one-line summary in the first line ending in a period.
 - A more detailed description below.



Docstrings



Key Takeaways

- Docstrings

- **Content:**

- Classes:

- Purpose
 - Public methods
 - Public instance variables
 - Effects of inheritance

- Functions and Methods:

- Arguments
 - Optional Arguments
 - Return value
 - Side effects
 - Exceptions raised
 - Relevant information and examples



Docstrings



Key Takeaways

- One-line Docstrings: Example

```
"""Add two integers and return the resulting integer."""
```

Description

- Multi-line Docstrings: Example

```
"""Return the area of a triangle.
```

```
Find the area of a triangle using the base  
and the height provided. These values must be  
positive or zero.
```

```
Args:
```

```
    base: A positive integer that represents the length  
           of the base of the triangle. This value can be zero.  
    height: A positive integer that represents the length  
            of the height of the triangle. This value can be zero.
```

```
Returns:
```

```
    A float that represents the area of the triangle.
```

```
Raises:
```

```
    ValueError: the base or the height or both are not valid.
```

```
"""
```