

FRQ 2

Describe the difference between “private” and “public”.

Also explain why getters and setters are used instead of making class attributes public.

FRQ 2 Answer

A method or attribute that is private has its scope limited to inside the class - code written outside the class won't be able to see or access them. Public methods and attributes may be accessed from anywhere.

Getters and setters are a good practice because they provide a layer of abstraction between private attributes and how they are accessed - this allows the class internal implementation of attributes to be changed later on, without having to change any code outside of the class that uses this class.

FRQ 3

Describe the purpose of a class's toString() method.

What does toString() return if the method was not explicitly written in a Class?

FRQ 3 Answer

toString() provides a human readable description of a specific Object. It also allows for easy concatenation of generic Objects with Strings.

If toString() is not explicitly written in a class, the default toString() implementation will be used - this returns the class's name and a number representing the memory address of the Object.