

Assignment #1

Parts of this handout were written by Adam Groce and Jim Fix.

Due: 11:59 P.M., Friday, August 31

Reading: For Wednesday, Chapter 1; for Friday, Chapter 2

Part I—Login to cs.reed.edu

This part is as simple as it sounds. Use your computer before the end of the day to login to `cs.reed.edu` so that your name is in the system. You must complete this step before we can add you to the assignment submission system.

Part II—Send us mail

Send an introductory email message to each of us (Eric Roberts <esroberts@reed.edu> and Mark Hopkins <hopkinsm@reed.edu>). Here's the information to include in your message:

1. Your name
2. Your year (frosh, sophomore, junior, senior, other)
3. Your major or area of interest (“unknown” is a perfectly acceptable answer)
4. Why you decided to take CSCI 121
5. What you are most looking forward to about the class
6. What you are least looking forward to about the class
7. Any suggestions that you think might help you learn and master the course material

And if you feel like giving us a little more to remember you by, you could also include the following:

8. What do you do for fun?
9. Tell us a quick anecdote about something that makes you unique—a talent, an unusual experience, or anything of that sort.

Part III—Download Python

Your next task is to download Python. If you have a Mac, Python 2 comes pre-installed, but we will be using a more modern version. You should download the latest version (currently 3.7.0) from <https://www.python.org/downloads/>. The download site will probably figure out what kind of computer you have, but make sure to pick the correct download for your operating system if it gives you a choice. Follow the instructions on that site to download and install Python 3.

Part IV—Choose a text editor

You will write your code in a text editor, and there are lots of options to pick from. Here are some good options:

Windows: Sublime Text 2, Notepad++

Mac: Sublime Text 2, TextMate 2, TextWrangler, Vim, AquaMacs, Gedit

Linux: Sublime Text 2, Vim, Emacs, Gedit

Sublime Text 2 is a great editor, but unless you pay to register it there will be a mildly annoying pop-up window from time to time asking you about it. The advantage of it is that if you're working on a windows machine at home and a Mac in lab, you can use the same editor in both places. The lab computers will also have TextWrangler, Vim, and Emacs. Vim and Emacs are great editors, but they're not as beginner-friendly as the others, so only use them if you are familiar with them already or are up for a challenge.

Once you have chosen a text editor, download it. Make sure it opens correctly. You should then configure your text editor so that hitting the tab button inserts 4 spaces, rather than a tab. (This is pretty easy to do with the recommended editors, but the process for doing it is a little different for each one, so you'll need to figure out for that editor how to do it. If you have trouble, ask a TA for help.)

Part V—Find or download a command-line interpreter

For the most, CSCI 121 runs programs in the context of a command-line interpreter. On the Mac, this application is called **Terminal** and lives in the **Utilities** subfolder of the **Applications** directory. On Linux, the command-line interpreter is called the *shell*, which should be running whenever you login. If you're using Windows, you should install **GitBash** (<https://openhatch.org/missions/windows-setup/install-git-bash>), which does the same thing.

Part VI—Solve three problems from the reader

- Problem 3, page 37 (area of a triangle)
- Problem 5, page 37 (Newspeak)
- Problem 8, page 38 (average three numbers)