Activity #8 : Reading Python Code

At this point in our course you have read a lot of simple graphical code. Believe it or not, you probably have learned enough actually read and understand some simple python code. You will be handed a short python program. With a partner, look at that code and see if you can answer the following questions.

1) What do you predict this program will do?

2) One of our 5 Essential Elements was “sequence – identifying a series of steps for a task.” How do you see that used in this program?

3) One of our 5 Essential Elements was “loops (iteration) – running the same sequence multiple times.” How do you see that used in this program?

4) One of our 5 Essential Elements was “selection statements – making decisions based on conditions.” How do you see that used in this program?
5) One of our 5 Essential Elements was “data and variables – storing, retrieving, and updating data.” How do you see that used in this program?

6) One of our 5 Essential Elements was “functions – defining a sequence of commands that perform a specific task.” How do you see that used in this program?

Recall that when you were working with Scratch the blocks consisted of text that could not be changed and “holes” where you could place information that could be changed. To a similar extent, this is true with Python as well. There are words/phrases/symbols that cannot be changed and other words/phrases/symbols that can be changed without changing how the program actually works.

7) Identify at least two words/phrases/symbols that you THINK cannot be changed in this program without breaking the program or changing the way that it runs.

8) Identify at least two words/phrases/symbols that you THINK can be changed in this program without breaking the program or changing the way that it runs.

9) While you probably can understand what this program does, you probably have lots of questions so far. Identify at least two things you would like clarified.