Topic 2a - Elements of Good Code

Part 2, Small Group Consolidation to a single Primer

Why Code Etiquette Matters
- Keeps consistency if the program has many writers
- Easier to debug
- Other viewers can easily read and find elements
- Easier to come back to and modify

Code Etiquette
- **Consistency** - I learned the hard way throughout the programming course how important consistency is when writing code. If you name a variable something in the beginning such as TOTAL, you must be consistent when using the variable again with TOTAL not TO or TOT
- **Structure** - Being consistent and using your white space appropriately.
  - Spaces between variables and operators
  - Correct indentation patterns / Nesting
  - Line spacing/ Whitespace
  - Things that go together should be placed together without blank lines in between
- **Variable naming** - There are a few different things to consider when naming a variable that can make a big difference.
  - Creating a names that are meaningful
  - Making sure names are readable. Camel case and underscores can be used to help make longer names easier to read. Some of this comes down to personal preference and what you prefer to use.
  - Creating unique names to avoid confusing and/or similar names.
- **Comments** - These are used to further explain the intent behind code, and to add context to the code i.e. what the code is intended to do, what the coder’s thinking process was at the time, the plan for variables.
  - Program Purpose and authors (at beginning)
  - Functions (above)
  - “tricky code” (in-line)
  - Self-notes (left off, possible bug)