TA Hours Guide

When approaching TA hours...

- **Come with a specific goal.** This could mean clarifying a conceptual topic, getting help with a difficult bug, or even fixing a grading issue. If you come to TA hours with a specific goal, the TAs will be more likely to help you reach that goal. On that topic...

- **Choose a reasonable goal.** Please don’t come to TA hours asking for someone else to do your homework.

- **Describe your problem.** This will give the TAs a better understanding of your situation and help avoid confusion.

If you’re confused about a conceptual topic covered in class...

- **Review the lecture slides** before coming to hours. Even if you are still confused, the more you know, the easier it will be for the TAs to answer your question.

- **Discuss with your classmates!** Remember that you are allowed to discuss conceptual topics with fellow CS16ers. That can be in person, or you can...

- **Post your question on Piazza.** You may find your question answered before even coming to TA hours!

If you have a bug and/or a question about your code...

- **Attempt to debug on your own.** If you come to TA hours with a bug and no evidence that you have attempted to solve the problem, the TA will ask you to try to fix it yourself.

- **Take note of what you’ve already attempted to solve your problem.** Show the TA your debugging process; this can be printlines, the Eclipse debugger, hand simulation, etc.

- **Post on Piazza, but make it a PRIVATE question for the instructors only.** Remember that you are not permitted to ask your classmates for help with your code.
Other tips!

- Consult the Common Errors in Python/Java docs on the course website for syntax-related help.

- Check others’ posts on Piazza—you may find that someone else had the same problem as you do.

- Remember that your TAs are students too and have busy lives. Please don’t approach them with questions outside of TA hours!

- Sometimes, the best solution is some rest and time away from the problem. Don’t be afraid to stop, take a nap, grab a snack, and come back to it the next day.