

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Python printing to file](#)

Will Patterson - September 21, 2021, 2:21 pm

I'm stuck on this homework assignment that I have.

Below are the instructions for it

Quote: You are an English major who has been given assignment to analyze Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

Open the file that contains Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech.

Print the total number of characters in the speech.

Open another file for output.

Write only the first paragraph of this speech to that file.

I finished the first 2 steps in the assignment which is in the code below:

Code # Open the file

```
inputFile = open("mlkspeech.txt", "r")
```

```
# Read the file
```

```
data = inputFile.read()
```

```
# Determine # of characters in file
```

```
numberOfCharacters = len(data)
```

```
print("Number of Characters in the file:", numberOfCharacters)
```

```
inputFile.close()
```

How would I open and create a new file and put the first paragraph of the MLK speech into it?

I believe we are supposed to use a while loop to do that

Thanks!

Donkey Death Jam - September 21, 2021, 2:52 pm

Code # Create the file with the 'w' option and alias the handle

with open("dream-first-para.txt", "w") as outputFile:

```
# Find the index of the newline escape sequence
```

```
endOfParagraph = data.find("\n\n")
```

```
# Substring the from start to the newline index
```

```
firstParagraph = data[:endOfParagraph]
```

```
# Write the first paragraph
```

```
outputFile.write(firstParagraph)
```

```
# With will terminate the file handle for you
```

Add this to the bottom of your current code and it should work.

Will Patterson - September 21, 2021, 3:04 pm

(Sep 21, 2021 02:52 PM)Donkey Death Jam Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Code # Create the file with the 'w' option

and alias the handle

```
with open("dream-first-para.txt", "w") as outputFile:  
    # Find the index of the newline escape sequence  
    endOfParagraph = data.find("\n\n")
```

```
    # Substring the from start to the newline index  
    firstParagraph = data[:endOfParagraph]
```

```
    # Write the first paragraph  
    outputFile.write(firstParagraph)
```

```
    # With will terminate the file handle for you
```

Add this to the bottom of your current code and it should work.

Would there be another way to do it without using Quote: # Substring the from start to the newline index

```
    firstParagraph = data[:endOfParagraph]
```

Also, I appreciate the help :)

Donkey Death Jam - September 21, 2021, 3:08 pm

(Sep 21, 2021 03:04 PM)Will Patterson Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Would there be another way to do it without using

Also, I appreciate the help :)

There are many ways to do it. If you want an explicit loop, you can do:

Code # Create the file with the 'w' option

```
with open("dream-first-para.txt", "w") as outputFile:
```

```
    # Loop through every character in the string
```

```
    newLineCount = 0
```

```
    for character in data:
```

```
        # Detect two new lines in a row
```

```
        if character == "\n":
```

```
            newLineCount += 1
```

```
        else:
```

```
            newLineCount = 0
```

```
    # If two in a row, we have written the paragraph, abort loop
```

```
    if (newLineCount > 1):
```

```
        break
```

```
    outputFile.write(character)
```

```
    # With will terminate the file handle for you
```

Able. - September 25, 2021, 10:42 pm

use open() in python. You can use open with close, or use with open(). You can do searches on it.