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

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    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.