CMSC131

Some guidelines for naming identifiers (variables, constants, etc) and formatting your code.

Naming Identifiers (I)

• There are some Java-enforced rules like…
  – The first character must be a letter, the underscore or a dollar sign.
  – Names are CaseSensitive
  – There are reserved words that you cannot use (such as if, else, class, etc.)
  – Names cannot contain certain special characters (such as -, %, +, &, !, etc.)
Naming Identifiers (II)

• There are naming "conventions" that we want you to follow like…
  – Don't start a name with a $ (this is usually an indication of a system-level identifier).
  – Don't differ identifiers JUST by Case.
  – Use meaningful names (eg: the name should express what is being held there).
  – Use English words (at least when coding here).
  – This isn't Twitter 😊 so don't go to crazy dropping vowels and consonants.
  – Use "Camel Case" formatting.

"Camel Case"

• Your variable names and method names start with lower case letters.
• Your class and interface names start with upper case letters.
• Each word other than the first word starts with an upper case letter.
  ```java
  int myFirstInteger;
  public class MyFirstClass {
  ```
• Constants are ALL UPPERCASE with underscores between words.
  ```java
  final int DAYS_IN_A_WEEK = 7;
  ```
Speaking of CONSTANTS…

• If there is a value that we will be using that will never have to change while our program is running, it should really be stored in a meaningful CONSTANT.

• Even if you only plan to use it ONE TIME we want you to do this.

• Even if it is a simple "flag" condition (type 1 for cat, type 2 for dog, …) we want named constants like

```java
final int CAT_CHOICE = 1;
...
if (userInput == CAT_CHOICE) {
...
```

Other formatting conventions…

• Use placement of braces { } as you have seen in the posted full examples.

• Use indenting similar to what you have seen in my posted examples.
  – If in doubt, Eclipse can help you if you highlight your code and then press `Control+I` (it will autofix your indentation).

• Don't have any lines that are longer than 80 characters long (that includes spacing).
  – This is in part because we need to be able to print your projects for parts of grading.