Computer Science   Activity—Biography, Business Card

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW
In this assignment you'll be writing your own factual, accurate, pithy, and amusing biographical statement. Then you'll write a program to print out a text based business card for yourself.

This assignment is worth 20 points and should be uploaded as a text file by the date given in class.

BACKGROUND
There are a number of places where a brief, electronic, biography of yourself is required: A Twitter account. A computer dating service. A research article for a journal. A GitHub description. A brochure for a workshop or presentation.

A brief biographical statement takes some crafting to satisfy both yourself and its context or audience; you wouldn't use the same biography for a dating service as you would for a research article. In this assignment you'll be writing a simple biography suitable for a professional or student context.

You'll also be writing a program that prints a text-based business card following a given format.

ASSIGNMENT SPECIFICATION
Write your own biographical statement that meets the following requirements:
1. The statement truthfully describes you.
2. The complete statement is around sixty words or less, probably split into 2-4 sentences.
3. The statement begins with your full name.
4. The statement includes your occupation (probably "student," but could be other things as well).
5. The statement includes your general place of residence (city? state? community?).
6. The statement includes a general description of what you do.
7. The statement includes a more specific statements of an achievement you're known for, and/or a favorite thing you've accomplished, and/or your most recent accomplishment.
8. Optionally, your statement may include a short, humorous, comment at the end. *Use with caution.*
9. If you are more algorithmically inclined you might appreciate this summary of the requirements, shared by someone on Twitter:
   [Name] is a [award winning/critically acclaimed] [job] based in [city, state]. They are the [job role] [of/behind/in] [best known thing], [favorite thing] and most recently [most recent thing]. [Fun little joke].

Then write a short program that prints on the screen a business card describing your details. The card will follow this general format, with adjustments to the details as necessary:

```
+-------------------------------------------------+
|    |                                            |
|   -|          Katniss Everdeen                  |
|  --|          Tribute Liabilities Associate     |
| ---|          Parasail Capital                  |
| ---------                                       |
|  -------      4 Hunger Plaza                     |
|              STE 1400                           |
|              District 12, Panem 00012           |
|                                                 |
| Work: (242)-262-2992       Cell: (999) 555-1212 |
| Email: katniss@dystopia.com  Twitter: @RealKatniss |
+-------------------------------------------------+
```

`biography.txt`
`business_card.py` or `BusinessCard.java`

The `biography.txt` file will include your biographical statement as described above, and the Business Card program will print a business card as given. To submit your assignments for grading, copy your files to your directory in `/home/studentID/forInstructor/` at *crashwhite.polytechnic.org* before the deadline given in class.

ASSIGNMENT NOTES

- Writing a good biography is like writing a good resumé or college application: keep in mind your context, and think of the person for whom you're writing. What will your reader find useful, informative, valuable, or noteworthy?
- In creating your statement, think about what other people will think is important. You want to be informative, but try to avoid any "humble bragging."
- The usual warning about revealing too much of your personal life apply here. You wouldn't want to identify your home address, of course, and you might not even want to identify your city, for example. On the other hand, if you think that identifying your home city as "Pasadena" gives your biography a certain *cachet*, by all means use it.
- Mind the humor. One person's "hilarious" is another person's "cringe-worthy," so pay careful attention to this final touch. If at all in doubt, leave it out, or get another person to give you honest feedback on what you've written.

GETTING STARTED

- Start writing! It might be helpful to try writing a number of different biographical statements for different audiences before you settle on the one you'll turn in for this assignment.
- I began by jotting down some things that are significant:
  - I am an experienced teacher.
  - I work at a prestigious school.
  - I teach AP physics
  - I teach multiple levels of computer science.
- I eventually assembled some of those talking points into this paragraph:

   Richard White has 30+ years of experience working with students in Physics and Computer Science, and teaches at a prestigious prep school in southern California. He is best known on the Internet as the creator of **LearnAPphysics.com***, and is responsible for developing Polytechnic School's thriving Computer Science program. He speaks French, likes to rockclimb, and drinks too much coffee.*

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER (NOT HAND IN)

1. Not all services require that you provide a biography or user description. What are some advantages to providing a descriptive biography for Twitter (as an example)? What are some disadvantages to providing a biography?
2. What is "doxxing"? Why does this assignment ask about that term in the context of this assignment?
3. Do you have a business card? Do your parents or other family members have business cards? Are paper-based business cards relevant in current culture?