Python Convention Guide

The rules presented in this document guide the python code in this repository

"Programs must be written for people to read, and only incidentally for machines to execute."

-H. Abelson, Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs

Introduction

- What are **coding conventions**?
  - "a set of **guidelines** for a **specific programming language** that controls issues such as :
    - how to name variables and functions
    - how the source code is indented/laid out
    - how and when to add comments
    - where (inside the source code) to declare variables and libraries
    - how to write statements
    - how files containing source code are organized inside a directory
    - when to use white space
    - which programming practices and principles to use
    - …etc."

Introduction

- In essence it tells you which rules to follow to write your script (program)
  - So, I can't give my own names to variables? You can, but names must follow rules. These rules are specified by coding conventions.
- Why use coding conventions and style?
  - improves the **readability** of their source code and make software **maintenance easier**.
  - Makes **maintenance** and **evolution** of the script easier
  - Coding conventions especially important when **code** is **shared** between **team members**.
  - Scripts and programs almost **never fully supported by its original author**; others take over and evolve it.

For Python, follow the PEP8 Style Guide found here:

https://peps.python.org/pep-0008/

and

https://realpython.com/python-pep8/