Tara’s take on Assignment 2

The basic idea here is that you will implement a text formatter... a program that reads a file that can contain text and special commands (that begin with “.”, are two letters long, and must be the first thing on a line). These formatting commands describe how the text should be indented, how long the lines are, how long the page is, how many lines the margins are, page headings, etc.

Your main algorithm will read each line, and if it is a command, do something (set a flag, output some text), and if it is just text, add the text to a data structure. In this case, we suggest you use a queue of words. We are suggesting this so that we can see that you can implement a queue... so I don’t care if you want to use queues of queues, or queues of sentences, or however you like to think of it.

There are a lot of strange things that can happen when someone puts a formatting command in a place you don’t expect (e.g., specify a new header before the old one even printed). You can be safe and try the reference perl implementation and make it work the same way. But you probably can’t think of every glitch... the most important thing is to handle underspecified situations in a predictable way. Write how you handle weird command combinations in the README.

If you run out of time at the very end, MAKE SURE WHAT YOU SUBMIT COMPILES. If you have started to implement some code that doesn’t work, comment it out. Describe what you were trying to do. Explain this in the README too.