AP Create PT Prep

This unit contains lessons to help students with preparation and execution of the AP® Performance Task: Create – Applications from Ideas

The lessons in this unit are meant to be taken piecemeal rather than as a typical unit sequence. Instead of a sequence of connected lessons, these represent a more modular breakdown of the things you need to do to

1) Review and understand the AP Create Task, scoring guidelines and sample submissions
2) Hands-on practice interpreting tricky elements of the task, and making a plan for completing the tasks in the time allotted
3) Actually doing the tasks and submitting.

The activities should be viewed as a suggested strategy for having students review and prepare for the task in a whole-class, inquiry-based way in keeping with other parts of the curriculum, but they are not required for understanding the tasks themselves.

Chapter 1: AP Create Performance Task Preparation

Week 1

Lesson 1: Create PT: Review the Task (1 hr)
This lesson contains a series of activities you can use to help students familiarize themselves with Create Performance Task, how it is scored, and some example tasks provided by the College Board.

Lesson 2: Create PT: Make a Plan (90 mins)
This lesson uses the Create PT Survival Guide as the backbone for a series of activities to ramp up to doing the actual Create PT. It contains activities to help students understand the algorithm and abstraction requirements of the task, as well as activities to help them narrow down and brainstorm ideas for their actual project.

Week 2

Lesson 3: Create PT: Complete the Task (12 hrs)
The lesson includes some final reminders and guidelines for completing the Create PT before officially starting. For a total of 12 class hours, you will work on your project with only types of teacher support allowed (essentially: Advise on process, not ideas). You may also work with a collaborative partner in *in development of your program* - written responses must be done on your own.

Chapter Commentary

Lessons that cover the preparation and completion of the Create Performance Task
If you are interested in licensing Code.org materials for commercial purposes, contact us.
Lesson 1: Create PT: Review the Task (1 hr)

Overview

This lesson contains a series of activities you can use to help students familiarize themselves with Create Performance Task, how it is scored, and some example tasks provided by the College Board.

Students review the Submission Requirements and Scoring Guidelines for the Create PT. Subsequently they review three example scored Create PT submissions with commentary to better understand how the Submission Requirements and Scoring Guidelines are used together. In a wrap-up conversation they identify a piece of advice, a "gotcha", and a remaining question they have about the Create PT.

Note: Much of the sample tasks, scores, and commentary on scoring shared in this lesson come directly from the College Board. Code.org’s commentary is noted where applicable.

Purpose

The Create PT is in many ways straightforward: you complete a self-directed programming project and respond to prompts about your program and process. As you dig into the details of the task, however, you quickly come across some of the nuances of individual components of the task and how they’re scored. This lesson is designed to introduce what these nuances are, and begin to provide some answers to the questions that will inevitably arise. Keep in mind that the next lesson provides a more structured set of responses to those questions, and so today students are just diving in to what the task looks like.

Agenda

- Review the Task
  - Introduce the Create PT
  - Review Create PT Submission Requirements and Scoring Guidelines
- Review Scoring Guidelines and Sample Tasks
  - Create PT Sample Response C
  - Create PT Annotated Sample C (score: 7/8)
  - Create PT Annotated Samples D (7/8), I (2/8), and J (4/8)
  - Optional - Review Grumpy Cat Exemplar Create PT
- Wrap Up
  - Create PT: Advice, Gotchas, Questions

Objectives

Students will be able to:
- Describe the major components of the Create PT
- Describe how the Create PT Scoring Guidelines will be used to assess the task
- Evaluate sample Create PT submissions by applying the scoring guidelines
- Identify remaining questions about the Create PT

Preparation

- Print or prepare to distribute digital copies of AP CSP Performance Task Directions for Students - College Board Student Handout

Links

- Heads Up! Please make a copy of any documents you plan to share with students.
  - For the Students
    - Create Performance Task - Scoring Guidelines 2018
    - AP Digital Portfolio Access - College Board Site
    - AP CSP Performance Task Directions for Students - College Board Student Handout
    - AP Digital Portfolio Student Guide - College Board Handout
    - CB Create PT - Sample C (7/8)
      - Make a Copy
    - CB Create PT - Sample D (7/8)
      - Make a Copy
    - CB Create PT - Sample I (2/8)
      - Make a Copy
    - CB Create PT - Sample J (4/8)
      - Make a Copy
(Optional) AP Digital Portfolio Setup

Tech Setup - AP Digital Portfolio, Making PDFs, and Videos

- Create - Written Responses: Sample C
- Create - Video: Sample C
- Grumpy Cat Exemplar Create PT Code
- Grumpy Cat Exemplar Create PT Written Responses
Teaching Guide

Review the Task

Introduce the Create PT

Remarks

Today we’re going to start looking more deeply at the Create PT, focusing specifically on understanding:

- The different components of the Create PT
- How the task will be scored

Don’t worry, you already have much of the knowledge and skills you need to do well on this task. The hardest part might be just understanding what is required of you.

First, we’ll quickly read the task description and look a some examples and how they were scored.

Review Create PT Submission Requirements and Scoring Guidelines

Students can find links for all these activities in Code Studio. Here is what they can see:

- Code Studio levels
  - Levels
  - 1

Student Instructions

Unit 6: Lesson 1 - Create PT Prep
- Reviewing the Task

Overview

This lesson contains a series of activities you can use to help students familiarize themselves with Create Performance Task, how it is scored, and some example tasks provided by the College Board.

Resources

College Board Documents
- AP CSP Performance Task Directions for Students - College Board Student Handout
- Create Performance Task - Scoring Guidelines 2018

College Board Create PT Samples
- Create - Video: Sample C
- Create - Written Responses: Sample C

Annotated Create PT Samples
- CB Create PT - Sample C (7/8) (copy as MS Word, Google Doc)
- CB Create PT - Sample D (7/8) (copy as MS Word, Google Doc)
- CB Create PT - Sample I (2/8) (copy as MS Word, Google Doc)
- CB Create PT - Sample J (4/8) (copy as MS Word, Google Doc)
Students can find all the links they need on this page. (If you are viewing this from within the lesson plan click Student Overview to see the student view of the page).

Warning: We have included links on this student page to the the scoring commentary for the sample tasks. If you want students to try applying the scoring guidelines to tasks without knowing ahead of time you'll have to invoke some kind of honor system or strategy to have them hold off looking.

Deprecated - old content from this page
On Dec. 13, 2017 we updated this page with new resources and links. If you're looking for the old stuff, it is copied below, but should be considered out of date.

Background

Review the Create performance task, scoring guidelines, and sample tasks.

Lesson

- Review the Create Performance Task.
- Review Create PT Samples Tasks and Scoring Guidelines

Resources

College Board Documents
- Create PT - Guidelines before starting
- Create Performance Task - Task Description
- Scoring Guidelines - Create Performance Task
- Create PT Samples:
  - Sample C (video | written responses)
  - Sample J (video | written responses)
  - Sample D (video | written responses)
- Scoring Commentary
- For all samples - Sample Create PTs Scoring Commentary

Other Resources
- Create Performance Task - Guidelines Before Starting (PDF | DOCX)
Prompt: This is a raw student submission - exactly what the student uploaded for their computational artifact and written responses. Read it to yourself first. Then with your partner spend a few minutes reviewing it. Be ready to share out the following answers.

- Did anything surprise you in looking at this sample?
- Do you think this scored well based on what you know about the scoring guidelines?

Discuss: Ask partners to spend a couple of minutes specifically discussing the prompts above. Then have the whole class quickly share the results of their discussion.

Create PT Annotated Sample C (score: 7/8)

Remarks

Sample C actually received a 7/8 score. Let’s look at the student response side-by-side with the scoring guidelines and the actual AP scorer’s notes to see why.

Distribute: The CB Create PT - Sample C (7/8) (links available on student page).

Prompt: With your partner look over this annotated version of the sample to see how each row of the scoring guidelines was applied. You should be reading specifically to answer any of the questions you had about the task earlier. After looking it over we will discuss:

- What characteristics of this response made it score well?
- Why specifically did this submission not earn Row 6?
- What questions do you still have about the Scoring Guidelines or Task description?

Discuss: Ask partners to spend a couple of minutes specifically discussing the prompts above. Then have the whole class share the results of their discussion.

- Where possible call out ways that the discussion is answering questions raised earlier in the class about the Submission Requirements or Scoring Guidelines.
- The specific algorithm requirements are fairly nuanced. It’s very possible to write a good complex algorithm that doesn’t actually feature a main algorithm with two sub-algorithms.
- The rest of the responses are very precise in their language. They use the language of the prompts and make it very easy to find the information the prompts are asking for.
Create PT Annotated Samples

D (7/8), I (2/8), and J (4/8)

Remarks

Let’s now take a look at some other samples.

Distribute: Provide pairs of students copies of the Annotated Create PT Samples D, I, and J (student links on code studio)

- CB Create PT - Sample D (7/8)
- CB Create PT - Sample I (2/8)
- CB Create PT - Sample J (4/8)

Prompt: With your partner look at these samples - you can pick which to look at first. As you review this task with a partner ask yourself:

- Where and how specifically did this fall short?
- Was there one major problem that caused ripple effects through the scoring?
- Or were there several smaller issues?
- Try to point out specific aspects of the Scoring Guidelines or Submission Requirements.

Discuss: Ask partners to spend a couple minutes specifically discussing the prompt above. Then have the whole class share the results of their discussion. Where possible call out ways that the discussion is answering questions raised earlier in the class about the Submission Requirements or Scoring Guidelines.

Optional - Review Grumpy Cat Exemplar Create PT

Review: The Code.org curriculum team felt students could benefit from seeing an exemplar Create PT project in which they could see and even edit the entirety of the program code. The links below are to an exemplar Create PT submission and program code we believe would earn full credit on the 2018 Create Performance Task.

- Grumpy Cat Exemplar Create PT Code
- Grumpy Cat Exemplar Create PT Written Responses

Wrap Up

Create PT: Advice, Gotchas, Questions

Prompt: Based on the examples that you saw today write down on separate post-its / scratch piece of paper

- The number one piece of advice you have for the Create PT
- One “gotcha” to look out for
- One question you’d still like answered about the Create PT
Discuss: Have students share their answers with a partner. Then have them place their responses on the board somewhere where they can be seen.

Once answers are on the board quickly report back to the group the patterns or trends that you’re seeing in their responses.

Remarks

Next time we meet we’re going to look more deeply into the Create PT, using the three questions you just answered. We’ll look closely at the algorithm and abstraction requirements and help you decide what kind of project to make. We’ll also talk about strategies for avoiding many of the "gotchas" you identified in this lesson. Finally, we’ll take time to address any remaining questions you have about the task.

(Optional) AP Digital Portfolio Setup

Tech Setup - AP Digital Portfolio, Making PDFs, and Videos

At some point students need to setup their AP Digital Portfolio to officially submit your performance tasks and to sign up for the exam.

Doing that setup and navigating around the digital portfolio will take a little bit of time.

The resource you need for that is primarily the: AP Digital Portfolio Student Guide - College Board Handout There are also several tools you should be familiar with in order to create the necessary PDF documents and Video screen captures that you need to submit. We provide links and some other instructions around tech-related things in the first level for this lesson.

Code Studio levels

- Levels
- 2

Student Instructions

Tech Setup and Tools for the AP Performance Tasks

Background

You need to setup your AP Digital Portfolio to officially submit your performance tasks and to sign up for the exam. There are also several tools you should be familiar with in order to create the necessary PDF documents and
Resources and Quick Links

- AP Student Guide for setting up digital portfolio (PDF)
- AP Digital Portfolio
  - AP Central web page about the digital portfolio
- Code Print - useful tool for preparing PDF of code for Create PT

More Details -- Table of contents

- AP Digital Portfolio Setup (Create & Explore PT)
- Making PDFs for Written Responses (Create & Explore PT)
- Making PDF of Program Code (Create PT only)
- Making a Video Screen Capture (Create PT required, could also use for Explore PT computational artifact)

AP Digital Portfolio Setup

Goal: Students should be aware of the Digital Portfolio and how to access it. They should know what’s there and be familiar with the basic mechanics of uploading and submitting their projects.

If your students have not done this yet, they will need to register themselves with AP digital portfolio in order to upload their projects.

Follow College Board Instructions to Setup Portfolio

- Here is the Student Guide for the digital portfolio. Follow these instructions to get setup.

The digital portfolio and guide contains a few helpful other things students should know about such as:

- Guidance about how to create a PDF
- Templates for the written prompts
- Ways to save drafts of written responses on the site and come back to it

Making PDFs for Written Responses

You are required to make a PDF of your written responses to prompts. It's recommended that you use the College Board templates for filling out your responses. At some point you will have your written responses in a word processing document such as Microsoft Word, Google Docs, or Pages.

What follows is copied from the AP Student Guide for the digital portfolio

How to make a PDF

- Recent versions of applications like: Word, PowerPoint, Pages, and Google Docs, have built-in features that allow you to save or export your file as a PDF. Instructions are provided below.
- If your software does not have a PDF option, visit the Adobe site and learn more about whether Acrobat from Adobe Systems can convert your document to PDF.
- You are responsible for ensuring that your file is properly formatted and readable. After you have created your PDF, be sure to check it by opening and reviewing your PDF in Adobe Reader, a free application that can be downloaded from the Adobe site.

Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint)

- In Word, Powerpoint, and other Microsoft Office programs you will “Save as PDF.” Visit the Microsoft Office support page for more information about “Save as PDF.” To save a Word or Powerpoint document as PDF:
Open your Word or Powerpoint document.
From the top menu select “File,” and select "Save As."
In the dialog window, go to the drop-down menu for “Save as type," and select "PDF."
Click "Save."

Google Docs
In Google Docs, you will "Download as" PDF. Visit the Google support page for more information on "Download a file." To download a Google Doc as a PDF:
Open your Google doc
From the top menu select “File,” and select "Download as," and select "PDF Document (.pdf)"

Pages
In Pages, you will "Export to" PDF. Visit the Apple support page for more information or follow the steps below:
Open your Pages document.
From the top menu select "File," and select "Export to," and select "PDF."
In the dialogue window select "Best," image quality.
Choose a destination for the export and click "Export."

Making PDF of Program Code (for the Create PT)
You need to make a PDF of your code and you also draw an oval and rectangle onto the PDF to highlight certain parts. There are a few options for this.

- Our recommendation: Use CodePrint - a tool for doing everything from the browser.
- Option 2: Make a PDF of the Code, then Edit the PDF using a PDF editor to draw shapes
- Option 3: Copy/Paste Code into a Word (or Google) document and add shapes there to produce PDF.

Details: how to make a pdf of your code

Step 1 - copy your code in App Lab
- Switch App Lab into text mode
- Select all the code(highlight all with your mouse or Ctrl+A)
- Copy it (Edit -> Copy, or Ctrl+C)

Step 2 - paste the code into a page or doc for printing

- **If using CodePrint**
  - This tool lets you draw rectangles and ovals over a pretty-ified version of the code (diagram at right)
  - If you can print a PDF from the browser, this should be all you need.
- **Other options**
  - Option: Github Gist -- GitHub Gist is a tool designed to let you quickly share code. We can use it to quickly print as well.
  - Go to GitHub Gist
    - Paste your code into the code area (the large open area with line numbers)
    - Optional: In the filename box type .js -- this forces the box to recognize the code as javascript
    - Click "Create Secret Gist" - this will save the code to a new page anonymously
    - From your Browser choose "File -> Print" and use your computer’s option to print to PDF.
  - **Option: use a word processor Google docs or MS Word**
This option is fine but you won't get line numbers next to your code which can be convenient.

If you choose this option you should add your annotations (rectangle and circle) here in the word processor.

How to add Ovals and Rectangles to a PDF

If not using CodePrint you'll need to add ovals and rectangles to the PDF of your code.

Windows

- You need to install Adobe Acrobat (see the AP guide for students)
- Open the PDF in Acrobat and add annotations

Mac

- The built in Preview App allows you to add rectangles and ovals directly
- With PDF open in Preview go to Tools -> Annotate -> Rectangle for example.

Making a Video Screen Capture

Students are required to make at least one video that is a "Screen capture" of themselves using the program they wrote for the Create PT.

How To Make a Screencast

If you have not made any screencapture videos in class to this point students may ask how to do it. You will need to use screen capture software. Here are two good options.

- Online/Web: Screencast-o-matic (may require download depending on browser/plugins)
- Windows / Mac: Jing from Techsmith (requires download)

Standards Alignment

Computer Science Principles

- 1.1 - Creative development can be an essential process for creating computational artifacts.
- 1.2 - Computing enables people to use creative development processes to create computational artifacts for creative expression or to solve a problem.
- 5.1 - Programs can be developed for creative expression, to satisfy personal curiosity, to create new knowledge, or to solve problems (to help people, organizations, or society).

If you are interested in licensing Code.org materials for commercial purposes, contact us.
Lesson 2: Create PT: Make a Plan (90 mins)

Overview

This lesson uses the Create PT Survival Guide as the backbone for a series of activities to ramp up to doing the actual Create PT. It contains activities to help students understand the algorithm and abstraction requirements of the task, as well as activities to help them narrow down and brainstorm ideas for their actual project.

The lesson concludes by providing students with resources to make a plan to complete the task starting in the next lesson.

Purpose

There are no new CS concepts covered in this lesson. It is a review of the processes and requirements of the Create Performance Task before students begin working on it individually.

Agenda

Getting Started (5 mins)

Activity (70 mins)

Introduce The Create PT Survival Guide
Is It a Good Algorithm? (page 2)
Activity: Does It Count? - Algorithm Edition (pages 2-4)
Is It a Good Abstraction?
Activity: Does It Count? - Abstraction Edition
Brainstorm Project Ideas

Wrap-up (10 Minutes)

Making a plan

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the elements and purpose of the Create PT
- Describe the scoring guidelines for the Create PT
- Evaluate sample Create PT components by applying the scoring guidelines

Links

Heads Up! Please make a copy of any documents you plan to share with students.

For the Teacher

- Create PT Survival Guide - KEY
- Create Performance Task - Scoring Guidelines 2018

For the Students

- Create PT Check-In Organizer - High Resolution PDF (download)
- AP CSP Performance Task Directions for Students - College Board Student Handout
- Create Performance Task - Scoring Guidelines 2018
- Create PT Survival Guide
Teaching Guide

Getting Started (5 mins)

💡 Prompt: Based on our review of the Create PT yesterday...
- What are the main things you have to do for the Create PT?
- What should you do first?

Discuss: Let students call out the things they remember. Make this a quick review just to remind them of what was covered in the previous lesson.

A few of the things you need to do:
- Write a program
- Individually write code for an algorithm and abstraction
- Make a video of your code running
- Answer written responses
- Make a PDF of your code

What should you do first?
- Pick and scope down your project

Activity (70 mins)

Introduce The Create PT Survival Guide

Remarks
Today we will use the Create PT Survival Guide to dig in a little deeper with the Create PT. The beginning of the packet has a number of quick activities that help get us in the right mindset for thinking about and doing the task so you are ready to hit the ground running.

The guide is intended to be useful throughout the entire process of completing the actual Create Task as well.

Distribute: Create PT Survival Guide

Read Overview (page 1): Have students read the Create PT Overview section of page 1.
- The information about the task itself should not be news if you've already reviewed the Create PT
- Focus on the suggested process and timeline on page 1

🔍 Algorithms on the Create PT (20 mins)

Is It a Good Algorithm? (page 2)

Prompt: The Create PT requires you to write and describe an algorithm in your program. Based on what we learned yesterday looking at scored samples, and the criteria listed here, what are the characteristics of that algorithm?
- Give students time to read
The Is It a Good Algorithm page contains information useful for the Does it count? activity. Some of the advice like the "parent and two children" portion of algorithms might be hard to understand in the abstract. You could still review it first and then revisit after going through the examples.

Alternatively, you could just dive into the Does it count? activity and tell students that all the information they need to make judgements about the algorithm code segments is contained page 2.

Activity: Does It Count? - Algorithm Edition (pages 2-4)

Prompt: Using what we just discussed about your algorithm choices and the scoring guideline provided, determine for each algorithm whether it would get the point and why.

Have students individually take 5-10 minutes to look at the set of selected algorithms and respond about whether those algorithms would earn a point, and why.

Discuss and Review Have students share and compare their responses with a classmate. Afterwards lead a discussion based on the patterns you see. You'll likely want to review the following points from the Survival Guide:

- The "parent and two children" model for a complex algorithm - (main + 2 sub-algorithms)
- What counts as mathematical and logical concepts

Is It a Good Abstraction?

Prompt: The Create PT requires you to write and describe an abstraction in your program. Based on what we learned yesterday looking at scored samples, and the criteria listed here, what are the characteristics of that algorithm?

- Give students time to read
- Allow students to chat with a neighbor
- Highlight the evaluation criteria specifically listed in the Survival Guide
- It is not necessary to do a whole group discussion here - this is just a kick off.

Transition: To get our brains moving we're going to look at some submissions for the abstraction and discuss whether they're good choices.

Abstraction on the Create PT (20 mins)

Activity: Does It Count? - Abstraction Edition

Prompt: Using what we just discussed about your abstraction choices and the scoring guidelines provided, determine for each abstraction whether it would get the point, why, and whether you can determine whether it manages complexity.
Give students individually 5-10 minutes to look at the list of abstraction selections and write down their judgements about whether it should earn the point, why and whether it manages complexity.

**Discussion**

**Goal:** Similar to the algorithm section, we want students to understand that in looking at the code an AP reader is looking for very specific things - it's a checklist. Familiarity with that checklist helps when planning your own project.

Again, don't worry or wallow too much in the gray areas of some of the examples - they are intentionally borderline to show where the border is. Students should try to be safely over that border.

Use the Create PT Survival Guide - KEY for commentary on individual abstractions.

![Teaching Tip]

You might consider doing a jigsaw here. Have students pick one of the scenarios to do and come together to discuss afterward.

---

**Goal:** Understand it doesn't have to be a big project; The create PT is about demonstrating something you already know how to do.

The biggest thing we're trying to guard against is students' eyes being bigger than their stomachs. We want to encourage students to be creative and start build whatever they want, but temper that with the realities of the Create PT...

- It doesn't need to be a big project
- Your job is to demonstrate that you know how to program something and identify certain aspects of it.
- There are no points for coolness or prettiness
- If you want to do something big, just get it started for the Create PT and come back to it afterward.

---

**“Narrow it Down” (15 mins)**

**Prompt:** Read the "Narrow It Down" section of your survival guide. Be ready to discuss:

- What are the key takeaways from this section?
- What questions do you have?

**Discussion**

**Goal:** The written responses are the most important part of the Create PT.

It's OK to submit an incomplete project so long as it has a working feature you can show in your video and contains an algorithm and an abstraction

Most ideas can and should be narrowed down before you start

You shouldn't be doing a lot of work in Design Mode.

You need to worry about the code that makes your program work, not making your initial screens perfectly lined up or attractive.

**Practice Narrowing It Down**

**Prompt:** With a partner go through these three example project proposals. For each one practice narrowing down the features of the project and identifying the core algorithm.

Give students 5-10 minutes to look at the three projects and start to jot down their own ideas.

**Discuss:** Have students share and compare their responses. Afterwards lead a discussion based on the patterns you see. You'll likely want to review the following points from the Survival Guide:

- Many projects have sub parts, each of which could stand on its own as a PT
- You should be able to easily see an algorithm opportunity within at least one of the sub parts -- if you can't, not a good choice.
- For any project idea it **should** be relatively easy to scope it down to one or two things that will be totally acceptable for the Create PT

**Bring It All Together (15 mins)**
Teaching Tip

Do you need to plan for abstraction? You probably don't need to plan for abstraction explicitly - if following the practices of this course, something will emerge that you can use.

Discussion Goal

Goal: Students should exit this brief activity with (1) a basic idea of what they're going to do for their project and (2) confidence that they can do it.

Brainstorm Project Ideas

Prompt: Come up with two example project ideas. List some simple information about each project so that a partner can give you some feedback on your idea.

Discuss: Have students share their thoughts. The most important points to note:

- You don't actually have that much time to work!
- When you start, you should have an idea about what the algorithm will be.
- Start with a narrowly scoped project, start working right away on the core parts of it.
- Don't try to learn new programming skills during the PT - do something you know how to do now.
- Get to the written responses as quickly as you can.

Wrap-up (10 Minutes)

Making a plan

- Turn to pages 11 and 12 of the survival guide
- The pages are there to help you plan for doing your own Create PT.
- The Create PT Process/Check-in Organizer is a place to take and categorize your notes and thoughts as you make your project.
- This Create PT Check-In Organizer - High Resolution PDF is a copy of what's on page 11 and is better for print if you want to print it.
- We will use this organizer to check-in after you've worked for a few hours.
- If you can slot in answers to all the areas on the organizer, then you should be able to easily complete the written responses.
- If you can't fill in some area that's an indication of where you should focus your next efforts.
- The Create PT Completion Timeline is there as a template for a daily guide for completing the PT.
- Review: pages 11 and 12 and add any initial notes or thoughts you have.
- Have students review the suggested timeline and make edits or updates to the schedule that will work for your school situation.
Note: the 12 hours is a minimum. You may opt to give students more time if you wish, but you may not give them less.

Prompt: Taking into account all the activities we did today plus what you know about the Create PT now, where do you expect you'll be spending most of your time? For which parts of the task should you maximize your time?

Give students a moment to think and share ideas with a partner.

Discuss: Have students share where they think most of their time should go.

- Probably want to maximize writing, video, and code PDF time
- Coding time that isn't focused on making your algorithm or abstraction is likely not well spent. It doesn't matter if your program "looks good" so long as it works!
- Don't forget to allocate time to proofread for easy-to-make mistakes that will cost points, like forgetting to cite sources.
- Use the response checklists in the survival guide to make sure you'll earn all the points.

Remarks

Now that we have methods and strategies for completing the task along with the beginnings of a plan, tomorrow we'll start the task in earnest.

Standards Alignment

Computer Science Principles

- 1.2 - Computing enables people to use creative development processes to create computational artifacts for creative expression or to solve a problem.
- 7.5 - An investigative process is aided by effective organization and selection of resources. Appropriate technologies and tools facilitate the accessing of information and enable the ability to evaluate the credibility of sources.

If you are interested in licensing Code.org materials for commercial purposes, contact us.
Lesson 3: Create PT: Complete the Task (12 hrs)

Overview

It is finally time for students to take on the Create Performance Task. For a total of 12 class hours, students should work on their projects with only types of teacher support allowed (essentially: Advise on process, don’t influence or evaluate ideas). Students may also work with a collaborative partner in development of their program - written responses must be done on their own.

The lesson includes reminders about how you can interact with students while they are working on their projects, and suggestions about time line. The Create PT requires a minimum of 12 hours of class time. At the end, students will submit their program code, program video, and written responses through their AP digital portfolio.

Purpose

There are no new CS concepts covered in this lesson. Students will work individually or with a collaborative partner on the Create Performance Task.

Agenda

Getting started

Ready?
Read page 3: Preparing for the Through-Course Performance Tasks
Read page 12: Preparing for the Create Performance Task
Read Page 2 - Policy on Plagiarism & Peer-to-Peer Collaboration
Read Pages 12-13 - Guidelines for Completing the Create Performance Task
How to acknowledge others’ work, previous work, and cite sources for the Create PT

Set
Activity (12 hours)
GO! Complete Create Performance Task

Wrap-up
Students submit completed Create Performance Task

Objectives

Students will be able to:
- Complete and submit the Create Performance Task.

Preparation

- Review the AP CS Principles Course and Exam Description to understand the teacher’s role on the Create PT
- Review how to create a stand-alone App Lab project to assist students

Links

Heads Up! Please make a copy of any documents you plan to share with students.

For the Teacher
- AP Digital Portfolio - Teacher Guide
- AP CS Principles Course and Exam Description

For the Students
- Create PT Survival Guide
- Create Performance Task - Scoring Guidelines 2018
- AP CSP Performance Task Directions for Students - College Board Student Handout
Tech Tips

Creating an App Lab Project: Before students begin programming, they should make sure that they are creating their program in a new App Lab Project - NOT in a level associated with a previous lesson.

However, you can use a previous project as a starting point as long as you add new parts that fulfill the task requirements.

To build off a program started in a previous lesson:
Make sure to click “Remix” from the original program level. This will create a new copy of the program that can be accessed from the list of individual student projects found at https://studio.code.org/projects

For students who are creating an entirely new program:
Create a new App Lab project by visiting https://studio.code.org/projects/applab/new

How Can You Help as a Teacher: Review the AP CS Principles Course and Exam Description, in particular pages 79 - 83 to understand how you as a teacher can and cannot assist on the Create Performance Task.

Before we start let’s look at a few pages in AP CSP Performance Task Directions for Students - College Board Student Handout.

Do these things:

Read page 3: Preparing for the Through-Course Performance Tasks
This is a general checklist of things you should do to prepare for any of the AP Performance Tasks. Let’s see how we did:

Prompt: With a partner - one person reading from the top down, the other reading from bottom up - check off things we've done to prepare so far. Identify anything we haven't done, and be sure to note and Create PT-specific items.

Quick chat with your partner to summarize anything new or unexpected you discovered.

- Some of the items do not pertain to the Create PT so can be ignored.
- Everything else should have been covered in one way or another if you've done the prep lessons prior to this and used the Create PT Survival guide.
- Address any questions students have

Read page 12: Preparing for the Create Performance Task
This is another checklist of things you should do to prepare specifically for the Create Performance task. Again, let's see how we did:

Prompt: again divide and conquer - with a partner scan the page and check off things you feel confident about, and pull out things you're not sure about.

- Again most of the things on this list are things we've done in the previous preparation lessons.
- They suggest keeping a journal to log things like decision points about opportunities and difficulties, algorithm and abstraction - we recommend using the Create PT Planning Organizer as a structured way to log that important information.
Read Page 2 - Policy on Plagiarism & Peer-to-Peer Collaboration

Read the two sections on Page 2, or point out the relevant portions (highlighted below). This is info to have in the background before you go read the guidelines for completing the task next.

Point out Plagiarism applies the the Create PT as well. Specifically:

**AP Computer Science Principles Policy on Plagiarism**

A student who fails to acknowledge (i.e., through citation, through attribution, by reference, and/or through acknowledgment in a bibliographic entry) the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else will receive a score of 0 on that performance task.

To the best of their ability, teachers will ensure that students understand ethical use and acknowledgment of the ideas and work of others as well as the consequences of plagiarism. The student’s individual voice should be clearly evident, and the ideas of others must be acknowledged, attributed, and/or cited.

A computational artifact without acknowledgment of the media used in the creation of the computational artifact, and program code segment(s) written by someone else used in a program without appropriate acknowledgment, are all considered plagiarized work.

Point out Collaboration is allowed as well:

**Peer-to-Peer Collaboration**

Collaboration is only allowed on designated sub-components of the Create performance task.

For the Explore – Impact of Computing Innovations performance task, collaboration of any kind is not allowed.

For the Create – Applications from Ideas performance task, you are encouraged to collaborate on the development of their program with another student in your class. Collaboration is not allowed during the creation of the video or when answering the written responses.

Students completing AP Computer Science Principles in a nontraditional classroom situation (e.g., online, homeschool, independent study) are encouraged to collaborate with another student peer when completing the Create performance task.

...but you need to be careful that you have enough original work to submit as your own PT.

Hold off discussing these things until after you read the guidelines on pages 12-13.

Read Pages 12-13 - Guidelines for Completing the Create Performance Task

This is a final list of Do's and Don'ts for the Create PT.

Prompt: with your partner, read the You must, You may, and You may not sections of this page. Then with you partner summarize: what kinds of things can your teacher help you with?

- Let students read and discuss with partners
- Discuss specifically how you (teacher) are allowed to help and not. Short version: you can help students with the process of completing the task, you cannot help by evaluating their work or ideas in any way.
- There may be some gray area around these items:

  - submit work that has been revised, amended, or correct by another individual, with the exception of cited program code;
  - submit work from a practice performance task as your official submission to the College Board to be scored by the AP Program; or

- Taken together this means you can submit a project that you had worked on previously, as long as the algorithms and abstractions identified in your response are new and original - and you haven't received feedback on them from a teacher.
- If you modify an existing project for the Create PT make sure that the purpose is also new, or modified to fit the changes and updates you are making. For example: “The purpose was to add a login feature to a game I made
Plagiarism and the Create PT

Students may also notice this line from the guidelines:

**You must:**

- provide acknowledgment for program code used in your program that is not your own; and

How to acknowledge others’ work, previous work, and cite sources for the Create PT

- add comments in the program code you submit to indicate which parts were written individually
- In response 2b (development process) make sure to indicate that the work was done collaboratively and refer the reader to comments left in the code.
- In responses 2a and 2b, if building off an earlier project, be sure to mention that the purpose was to extend previous work - whether your own or someone else’s - and also make that clear in the development process section.
- If using images, media or other copyrighted material found on the web, you should cite those sources in comments in your program code - usually at the top. Something like:

```// The images used in this app came from:

Set

- Take out your Create PT timeline that we developed and reviewed.
- Ask and answer any remaining questions
- Remind students of the overall timeline and that the official PT time is about to start

Activity (12 hours)

**GO! Complete Create Performance Task**

**Links in Code Studio:**

Students can find links to AP documents on the student page in code studio associated with this lesson.

**Code Studio levels**

**Create PT - Complete the Task - Student Links**

*(click tabs to see student view)*

Wrap-up

**Students submit completed Create Performance Task**

**Submitting:**

- You are encouraged to submit and save work in the AP digital portfolio as you go!
At the designated end of the Task administration (having allowed for at least 12 hours of class time for work) students should submit their computational artifacts, and written responses to their AP Digital Portfolio Access - College Board Site. You can find more instructions as well by using the AP Digital Portfolio - Teacher Guide.

Before they submit their final work:

- Encourage students to check over the Create PT Survival Guide checklists one more time to make sure they met the requirements.
- Make sure they have all the components necessary for the Create Performance Task.

**Submission Timeline:** You may spread out submission over a few days if you like since students can save progress in the AP Digital Portfolio. As long as they finalize submission by the closing date of the PTs it's fine.

In the past submitting everything right at the deadline has been a risky proposition as the site sometimes experiences outages due to heavy traffic. Get something in early and modify later.

**Standards Alignment**

**Computer Science Principles**

- **1.2** - Computing enables people to use creative development processes to create computational artifacts for creative expression or to solve a problem.
- **2.2** - Multiple levels of abstraction are used to write programs or create other computational artifacts.
- **4.1** - Algorithms are precise sequences of instructions for processes that can be executed by a computer and are implemented using programming languages.
- **5.1** - Programs can be developed for creative expression, to satisfy personal curiosity, to create new knowledge, or to solve problems (to help people, organizations, or society).
- **5.2** - People write programs to execute algorithms.
- **5.3** - Programming is facilitated by appropriate abstractions.
- **5.4** - Programs are developed, maintained, and used by people for different purposes.
- **5.5** - Programming uses mathematical and logical concepts.
- **7.5** - An investigative process is aided by effective organization and selection of resources. Appropriate technologies and tools facilitate the accessing of information and enable the ability to evaluate the credibility of sources.

This curriculum is available under a Creative Commons License (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0).

If you are interested in licensing Code.org materials for commercial purposes, contact us.