The following are considered best programming practices and will be used to grade assigned MATLAB programs.

1. **Clear statements:** The first 2 lines of the program shall be the 2 clear statements;
   - clear % clears (deletes) all variables previously created in the Workspace Window
   - clc % clears the Command Window

2. **Program Comment Header:** Immediately after the 2 clear statements there shall be a series of comments documenting the program and containing, at a minimum, the following information:
   a. Author of program
   b. Date program created or last modified
   c. Assignment #: e.g.: ENGR-221 Lab 2
   d. Purpose of Program; a short description of what the program does
   e. Program Filename: e.g.: ENGR_221_Lab_2_first_last.m, (where first and last are your first and last names)

3. **Program Content:**
   a. The program shall be user friendly to the extent that any user should be able to understand what the program does, what inputs are required and what the output means.
   b. The program shall screen the inputs to assure that divide by zero errors do not occur.
   c. Units for inputs and outputs shall be incorporated into the inputs and outputs.
   d. Outputs, whether to the screen or to a file shall be formatted in an easy to read manner. Program output shall contain the inputs as well as the outputs including units.

4. **Comments and Formatting:**
   a. Program statement shall be organized in logical blocks of code which contain a short descriptive comment at the beginning of the block. Empty line spaces shall be used to separate blocks of code.
   b. Use comments sparingly but make sure that the comments will allow someone else to understand your program.
   c. Use indenting for while loops and if structures. This will enhance the readability of your code. MATLAB contains an “Auto Indent” function located in the Text pull-down menu of the Editor Toolbar.
   d. The last line of the program shall be an end of program message.