Promoting Students to CTA Status

(Adapted from the CS 169.1x edX Guidelines to Promoting Students to TA Status)

We recognize that there are extremely motivated students who take this course! They not only spend time on learning the material and doing the exercises, but they are also active members of the 6.00.2x community, especially on the discussion board. Driven by a desire to help others learn, their presence on the forum with insightful and helpful answers is a large part of what makes this course a success.

The staff would like to acknowledge these students by promoting them to the status of a Community TA for the course! In the first week of the course, we will identify students who are making exceptional contributions to the course and, with their permission, they will receive the promotion.

What are the benefits of being a CTA?

A Badge
A CTA will have a green badge next to their name whenever they post in the forums, indicating that the staff highly trusts their responses.

Editing Privileges
A CTA will have the ability to remove inappropriate posts and edit posts that reveal too much of a solution.

Recognition
A CTA will be somewhat of a celebrity in the 6.00.2x community. They will become household names that other students will talk about when they show off their programming skills to family and friends!

Gratitude
The staff will appreciate the time and dedication a CTA has put in to helping make this course a success and will reward CTAs that have made consistent exceptional contributions with a small token of our appreciation at the end of the course.

What is the Criteria for Being Selected as a CTA?

Responsible and Respectful
A CTA will be someone who has posted material that is kind and respectful toward all cultures, diverse opinions, and orientations. These posts must never be derogatory in nature and must showcase open-mindedness and appreciation for learning. A CTA provides solutions to problems without disparaging or discouraging classmates.

Relevant, Informative, and Resourceful
Posts must be relevant to the topic at hand and the course. To this end, posts must relate to computer science, programming, and research. This can include links to additional resources and discussion of computer science topics beyond what is covered in the course, providing new or clarifying insight that is both factual and correct. A very good post will link to additional supporting materials relevant to the topic. A great post will cite a credible source.

Frequent Poster
A CTA will post on the forum often. This is essential, since they will be responsible for answering questions and facilitating conversation on the forum.

Facilitate Further Discussion
Posts that facilitate discussion can include constructive criticism, asking questions, linking to other resources, generating new and interesting ideas, and summarizing existing ideas in a thread. We are looking for people who answer others' questions and provide new insights, as opposed to people who merely post questions or react to technical issues. This is the nature of the job of a community TA.

Engaged With the Courseware
A community TA is familiar with the courseware. He or she attempts/attempted to complete all assignments and keeps up to date with all new finger exercises, videos and problem sets. We expect that the community TAs will be able to answer questions and provide insights on the forum; this is only possible when engaged with the courseware.