

Would anyone pay you for this skill? + How Your Prof Grades <Caution: Read It!

The 5 Good Habits for Evidence are essential to figuring things out, problem solving, and to critical thinking. They are listed in the left column below and they are covered in the Evidence Quiz folder.

Frequently, students who have been rewarded for their actions in the past have incorrect assumptions about what bosses and professors expect. They seem to reevaluate their assumptions only when I ask "If you got really good at doing this, would any business or group want to pay you to do this?" If neither bosses nor profs would want this, then change your habits now.

5 Good Habits for Evidence	Would a Company Want to Pay You for These Skills?
1 Reliable Sources Only	No one would ask you to "Google this for me and copy anything you like from the Internet" and no one would pay you for doing it. What's a reliable source? What your boss or your professor thinks is a reliable source.
2 Factual Accuracy That You Verify with the Reliable Source Before You Write	No one would pay you if you cannot figure out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the question asked • the right facts carefully read and selected for that question • the meaning of the facts carefully read as a whole <p>Example: if your boss asked you to explain why the Dallas plant is failing and instead you investigated the plant in San Antonio, you better have a very good story.</p>
3 Factual Accuracy That Is Verifiable for Every Statement You Make	No one would pay you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if you don't know exactly where (including the source and the specific page) you found your evidence • if someone has to check your work all of the time.
4 No "Half-Copy" Plagiarism or "Patchwriting" ¹	No one would pay you—at least not well—to copy another's words and move them around. No one will want you around if you present yourself as the author of work that another person did. ² If you think STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) are just about memorizing, remember these disciplines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may require you to be able to repeat terminology accurately • but they always require you to be able to apply knowledge accurately. <p>Also see Why I Make a Big Deal About "Half-Copy" Plagiarism and "Patchwriting." The reasons may surprise you.</p>
5 Quotation Changes Revealed Clearly	No one would pay you (or want you around) if you are so careless that you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make others look like they can't write a correct sentence. • Change the meaning of what others say and write

¹ The quoted terms are explained on page 746 in the ninth edition of *The Bedford Handbook* by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers.

² Page 746 and 747 also provide examples that show that listing a page number in a citation is not enough. You are claiming that you created **all** the words:

- If you copy another's words without using quotation marks ("") to distinguish your words from the author's words
- If you take another person's sentence structure and just swap out what you *think* are synonyms

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FYI: People helped me. My life was easier and richer because of that. I am glad to help any of you who want the help.

Why the Grading Method Started

Several years ago, I started to notice online students answering short essay questions:

- By typing exact words from the source (the textbook) without using the required quotation marks – Plagiarism
- By grabbing a few words from different sentences without using the required quotation marks and were assembling a fake sentence as though they wrote it—“half-copy” plagiarism or “patchwriting”

I talked to those students and realized that they could **not** guess:

1. The **risk** they were taking in the world of some jobs and of some upper level courses
2. The **damage** they were doing to their brains by **never making themselves read and figure things out**
Synonyms for **figure out**:
 - SOLVE – “to find a solution, explanation, or answer for”
 - FATHOM “to search into and explore very thoroughly : subject to a **penetrating investigation**”
“Figure out.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster,
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/figure%20out>. Accessed 10 Nov. 2020.
3. The **rush of adrenalin** that they could feel when they actually figure something out.
My testimony: It is painful, but the more you try, the better you get—and the greater that rush of adrenalin and that **comfort that comes from knowing that you can solve problems.**

How I Grade Writing Now – Not to Hurt Your Grade But to Alert You to Protect Your Future

As I saw the increase in not only plagiarism and “half-copy” plagiarism, but also in passive reading and writing that spread with those bad habits, I realized that—if I was not part of the solution—I was part of the problem.

Bit by Bit I Changed Assignments

- Required citation for every fact or group of facts from the same source and page (which is the pattern with *Chicago Manual of Style* anyway—the way I was trained in college and graduate school)
- Required use of primary sources and videos that I provide in the Blackboard course
- Required use of specific pages from the textbook or primary and—if necessary—specific sections of a page
- Required use of specific search words for videos

Bit by Bit I Changed How I Mark Papers

With online papers, I print them and put them in a stack, frequently in alphabetical order to speed up entry of grades and to try to reduce error in entry in Blackboard gradebook and in Blackboard rubrics.

1. For each paper in the stack one by one, use 1 color of highlighter to circle the opening and ending “” (and also any single quotations “”) and to underline everything in between
2. For each paper in the stack one by one, use another color of highlighter to highlight the citation from the opening (to the closing)
3. For each paper in the stack one by one, read to see if anything **seems** amiss and then mark a small checkbox beside it in the left margin so I check that issue
4. For each paper in the stack one by one, compare the markings on your paper with the source
 - The page of the online primary to what you said was on that page and to any quotation from it
 - The page of the textbook to what you said was on that page and to any quotation from it
 - The text of the transcript of the video to what you said was in the video

All humans make mistakes, but—if, for example, I wrote that you plagiarized—I have evidence so you can see for yourself.

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