

What's Here That You Might Want with the Feedback on Writing-#1 That I Am Emailing Next

- “General Stuff” that students have asked over the years.
- What's with the Pink, Green, the Word *Habit* in the Left Margin, the Checkmarks (✓), and the Notes?
- What Are the Two Pages in the Attachment For?
- Entry of Points and Timing for Calls If You Want to Talk to Your Prof about Your Paper?
- General Offers and another choice that might match some of your preferences for learning

“General Stuff” That Students Have Asked Over the Years

General Stuff: Why Does the History Department and This Prof Do These Kinds of Assignments? - 3 reasons:

1. The master syllabus (and my name for it could be wrong) for the state of Texas for US History classes requires that 30% of a student's Final Letter grade come from writing about history (that is, content that is real and verifiable by evidence). Further, that the writing must use primary sources.
2. My Department follows that policy.
3. I believe it is the right thing to do for Texas and for each of your futures.

General Stuff: Why Does Your Prof Grade on Evidence?

Three teachers did the equivalent of this for me at different stages of my life and each time it was a gift.

Why? Because they **showed** me that I was **not** doing what I thought I was. Those experiences made a big difference in my life.

General Stuff: Why Did I Add the Requirements to the Rubric? - 2 reasons:

1. When I read your papers the first times, I realized some of you were doing what some of my on-campus students were doing—and I'd **never** seen anything like this before this year. If they followed the Requirements, then they would **not** have made the errors. Helping them see that the root cause of their trouble was not their smarts, but their not following directions seemed to help some of them change.
2. It also let me record a bit more points for some of them and some of you.

General Stuff: How Smarts Are Never Enough and about How Good Habits for Evidence Are Always Essential

Click [here for the 5 Good Habits for Evidence - the Rubric + Requirements](#). It has:

- At the top, links to habits for working that can prevent each of the errors that students did – Most of these tips are from my 4th grade teacher.
- At the bottom, the Rubric + Requirements used to grade each of your papers and attached with your paper.

What's with the Pink, Green, the Word Habit in the Left Margin, the Checkmarks (✓), and the Notes?

- **Pink** = 1st I read and highlight every quotation in each of your papers
- **Green** = 2nd I read and highlight every footnote number in the body of your paper and with the citation
- 3rd I read and compare your words with:
 - My open files of each of the primaries you cited (Ctrl-F shows me things quickly.)
 - The textbook with each of possible pages for this writing bookmarked
- 4th use the left margin to identify the Habit that can prevent a problem shown on that line and add checkmarks and notes as needed

In that 4th pass, I **also** record on the Rubric + Requirements.

What Are the Two Pages in the Attachment For?

This shows a student's two pages as examples:

- **1st** Page on the **left** side of the rubric – Click [here for whether the paper qualified for a letter grade of A, B, or C](#). The number of points for this are handwritten across the top line of your rubric—1st page.

How to find out what lowered your points and how to improve your work for Writing-#2:

- **1st** Page on the **right** side of the **rubric** - Click [here for the Habit # you need to improve and with the Habit's brief explanation underlined](#). **Tip:** You can also find out more by using the 5 Good Habits for Evidence link above.
- **2nd** Page on the **left** margin of your **paper** – Click [here for the exact line in your paper where you need to use that Habit # to improve](#)

Entry of Points and Timing for Calls If You Want to Talk to Your Prof About Your Paper?

What I will do is enter these points—ideally tomorrow.

I am also glad to answer questions until your next paper is due:

- For the remainder of **this** week, look at my office hours and see if we match and email me.
- **Also, if you tell me ahead, on Friday 12/6 I could be at the office phone earlier (as early as 7) until about 10:40 when I walk down to class and return about 1:05. I will be at that office phone until 2:15.**
- For **next** week, I have Finals so I am **not** available **during** a Final but usually I can be at my office phone an hour before and an hour after if you email me ahead. I am on my office campus on Monday (Final, 12:30-2:30) and Wednesday (Final, 10:15-12:15). If you email me ahead a possible time, then I will try to be there.
- I am also willing for me to call you if this happen:
 - **If we can agree on a mutual time** (I usually am working by 5:30 AM so I quite working by 7:30 PM.)
 - **If—when I call at that time you had specified—you are ready. Ready means you can see my feedback, your textbook, and the 3 primaries.**

General Offers and Another Choice That Might Match Some of Your Preferences for Learning

Reminder: there is no penalty for not doing the second writing.

General Offers – This has been a horrible term for me, but not because of you all. This might help:

- **If you made a 0 because you used Internet sources**, then do Writing-#2.
Offer: If you do Writing-#2, carefully do not plagiarize, and try to follow the Good Habits for Evidence, then that Writing-#2 grade overwrites that 0.
FYI: If you practice the Good Habits for Evidence, you won't need to plagiarize.
- **If you made a 1.11 because you did not do the Requirements**, then do Writing-#2.
Offer: If you carefully follow Requirements (the ones listed in the instructions, in the Turnitin statement, and under the Rubric) when you do Writing-#2, then that Writing-#2 grade overwrites that 1.11.
- **If you made any other grade**, if you more carefully follow Requirements and Good Habits for Evidence and you make higher on Writing-#2 than on Writing-#1, then that Writing-#2 grade overwrites the Writing-#1 grade.

Another Choice for Learning

You have a choice based on which matches what you want to learn:

- **Either Writing-#2.** It has as primaries the Monroe Doctrine and two primaries from the 1900s.
What do you do earn more of your 100 points? Do at least do as well as you did on Writing-#1, but try to stretch yourself so you get stronger. Please ask if you have questions.
- **Or** a 100-point Turnitin at the bottom of Writing-#1 to be called LearnFromWriting-#1 (available 12/5).
What do you do for more of your 100 points?
 - You carefully go through your written feedback on Writing-#1 (rubric and paper).
 - You figure out what you did and how to make your paper **a) true** and **b) without the Evidence errors of the prior version**. Notice you are not trying to make it prettier writing. Please ask if you have questions.