

## Part 3: Evidence-Focused Reply to the 2 Fact-Checkers—Definition, Method, Requirements including Subject Line, and Grading

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### What If You Had No Fact-Checkers?

If you had **no** Fact-Checkers, email your Prof for an alternative assignment for those points.

### What’s a *Reply* and What Does *Thorough* Mean?

[Merriam-Webster Online](#) defines:

- **Reply** as “a thorough response to **all** issues, points, or questions raised.” Link Address: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reply>
- **Thorough** as “marked by full detail” (such as a “thorough description”) and “careful about detail” or “PAINSTAKING” (such as a “thorough scholar”). Link Address: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/thorough>

In other words, if you want a good grade, be “thorough” and deal with “**all** issues, points, or questions raised”:

### **Caution:** Look at the Rubric (Especially the Far-Left Column) Before You Start Clicking

A copy of the rubric is immediately below this link in the folder. Look at the *left* column of the rubric **before** you start to reply to a Fact Checker and notice that your Reply **only earns 1.11** points:

- **If** the Fact Checker says you did **not** do a Requirement and **you ignore it or you just say the Fact Checker is wrong**.
- If the Fact Checker says you did something incorrect with content **or** with the Good Habits for Evidence and **you ignore it or you just say the Fact Checker is wrong**.

#### **How could you avoid that 1.11?**

1. Repeat what you did—or should have done—before you wrote the exact spot where the Fact Checker identified the problem:
  - Compare the Requirements with what you did in your paper at that exact spot.
  - Compare the exact place in the source with the exact spot in your paper.
2. If you are still sure you were right, then carefully and factually and briefly write a Reply that explains that to Fact Checker.

### What Does Your Instructor Recommend As a Method to Do This Assignment and What Are Its Requirements?

1. **Caution** and **Tip:** Before you do this assignment, go look at your Prof’s comments about Part 1. If the Fact Checker commented on what your Prof commented on, it is a faulty chess move to dismiss the Fact Checker’s comment.
2. Take a print of your own paper and either mark on it every place that the Fact Checker (and your prof) wrote something or print the Fact Checker’s post.
3. **Compare** each place the Fact Checker said something about:

- What you actually wrote
  - What the source for that place actually said. **Caution 1:** Proof it. To proof means to compare side by side your paper and your source to be sure page numbers and facts and names and quotations and **everything** is correct. **Caution 2:** You cannot just say something is true because it is in your memory of a prof's answer or you are sure it was U-tube video. If a boss would not pay you for it, then do not do it with a class.
4. Do the steps above with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fact Check of your work.
  5. When you are sure you are accurate, return to the discussion.

**Caution:** a Grading Issue--How Do You Do the Subject Line and Other Posts with Examples?

<p><b>Subject Line of Your Post- This is part of the grade.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Click on the Fact Check.</li> <li>2. <b>Caution:</b> Click <b>Quote</b> to create a reply that has the student's writing <b>in</b> the message area. <b>Tip:</b> On the left you see a Reply button and then a Quote button. Click the Quote button.</li> <li>3. Change the <b>Subject Line</b> to this: <i>Your Name – My Reply to Your Fact Checking</i></li> </ol> <p>Example: if your name is Ana Joy, your <b>Subject Line</b> is Ana Joy– My Reply to Your Fact Checking</p>
<p><b>How to Reply to Each of the Fact Checker's Comments</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. In your paper with a Fact Checker's comments, insert your Reply at the <b>spot</b> where you want to respond to the Fact Checker's feedback by doing these thing:</li> <li>5. Make a blank line.</li> <li>6. Type an opening square bracket—like this [—and then the word <b>REPLY:</b> <b>Caution:</b> Remember the definition of Reply at the top of this link. It is not just a Blackboard command. and then whatever you need to say and then a closing square bracket—like this ].</li> <li>7. Make another blank line.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Example If You Think the Fact Checker Is Right</b></p>	<p>If the person who Fact Checked your paper said your citation of page 513 should have been 519, but you double-checked and the fact you were using does start on 513 and 519 is something different than what you were saying. In that case, you could write just <b>below</b> what the Fact Checker wrote, then any of these types of comments would be fine:</p> <p>[REPLY: Hi, thank you. You were correct. I will be more careful about proofing my work.]</p> <p>or</p> <p>[REPLY: I compared the source and paper and you were correct.]</p> <p>or</p> <p>[REPLY: You are right. I just checked the source with the paper.]</p>
<p><b>Example If You Think the Fact Checker Is Wrong</b></p>	<p><b>Caution:</b> Be as polite as though you could be really wrong. Why? Because sooner or later you will be wrong. That's life.</p> <p>If the person who Fact Checked your paper said your citation of page 513 should have been 519, but you double-checked and the fact you were using does start on 513 and 519 is something different than what you were saying. In that case, you could write just <b>below</b> what the Fact Checker wrote:</p>

[REPLY: Hi, I did double-check and 513 is the page where this specific issue starts. Page 519 is about a later issue than what I was writing about.]

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## Resources Available as Links on This Webpage

### If You Want to Know MORE about Why We Use These Shortened Citations

The reasons are:

- All of your written assignments are brief and have a maximum word count. If you used traditional MLA citation which is written **inline** (within your lines of text), you would use up your word count much faster. You could end up with a paper that says little but is full of lots of long citation.
- History's standard, the *Chicago Manual of Style*, provides rigorous citation, but not inline. Instead, it uses endnotes (citation at the end of the paper) or footnotes (citation at the bottom of the page) to provide citation.

In other words, **citation is there but it is not in the way of communication of the history**. The citation is **not** written within your lines of text because of how historians write about history.

- They are helping people understand the past.
  - That is your job in this course as well. Why? When you try to help someone understand history, you start to understand it yourself. If you want to understand something, try to teach it.
- In this class, you use these shortened citation format so that citation is as unobtrusive as possible.

### Brain Trick for Quoting and Avoiding Quotation Humiliation

Click [here for additional tips](#). (This tip is also available from the tutorial at the top of Evidence **Requirements**.)

The rules for showing what you have taken out (...) of the author's words or put in ([ ]) are complex and for most of us they are **not** worth learning.

This **brain trick lets you be accurate but avoid learning those rules**:

1. Choose 3 to 6 words to quote and change nothing (not an *ing* or an *ed*, not a comma, nothing) between the first and the last word.
2. Put a “ **before** the first word and a ” **after** the last word.
3. Place those words with the “ ” within your sentence.
4. **If something sounds awkward about your sentences, then change *your own words***—the only words *you* have a right to change.
5. Look at all of the words in the source. Be sure the meaning of the source remains in your quotation.

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