

The **yellow** bottom part is true for all of you. I put this in some of your packets.

You did a paper where I said that you had to mark in big handwritten print where the footnote references--look like this<sup>1</sup>--should have been in your paragraphs.

What I see on your paper shows me that you do **not** understand basics of evidence that the real world will expect you to already know. What is the real world?

- Your probable government prof plus other disciplines in community colleges
- Your upper level profs in the last 2 years of your degree
- Your boss – they will not ask you to cite but they will expect you to prove what you say
- Your life where a sloppy decision can mess up your future for a decade

If I had used MLA standards and if I had not been working most of my life to become like an expert in the discipline, I could **not** know that you did **not** understand evidence. Further, without requiring you use the same sources I have in front of me, I could **not prove** that you did not understand in a reasonable amount of time. With footnotes, I can tell **instantly** and I can prove it. Footnotes are:

- Not only a great tool for keeping your own evidence trail
- But also using them means you cannot lie about evidence **to yourself—the greatest danger**

I cannot make this clear to you **today** so I have recorded a 50 for this paper. **If this results in an F for a Final Letter Grade for you, I have logged to check your grade** and if possible **based on what your other grades are like**, I will increase it according to what is typical of **all** your grades.

**BUT please let me talk with you in the first weeks of the Spring term** before things get crazy. **You do not have to be in my class for me to try to help you.** Do this:

1. Look at my office hours
2. Talk to me about setting aside time for you during those hours or other times we work out
3. Bring your paper with you so I can refresh my brain and then talk specifics with you, OK?
4. Expect this to take an hour of thinking together

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<sup>1</sup> Down here in this automatically created place you should have written the name of the source and the specific page # where the fact is located.