

Thank you Ms. A for your very informative response and the added input towards my essay. Also, thank you for encouraging me with this class as well as giving me a better understanding of the course itself.

I greatly appreciate your help and input. I will apply it in my future papers. I look forward to my next assignment.

Thank you, again,

K

On Friday, December 6, 2013 9:03 AM, A <@selu.edu> wrote:

K,

Thank you for emailing me with concerns about my comments on the midterm. Here is the breakdown of point deductions for your paper:

- -3 for minor punctuation issues
- -10 for ending on quotes (-5 for each)
- -7 for being off topic

I am impressed by your email, so I decided to review your midterm again based on your points.

First, I am sorry you had a problem when typing your paper on MyCompLab. I have encountered a few cases where I typed my comments, and then a glitch erased them, causing me to comment all over again and to save my comments when I spend extra time on a paper. Reading your midterm again, I do not see how rewriting caused several errors. I noticed just a few punctuation errors and one spelling error in the overall paper, which is not bad considering the limited time you wrote the paper in. I take off a minimum of three points for punctuation on all students' midterms/finals. Mrs. D sent me an email early today about this issue.

In regards to being on topic, I could see elements where you were answering the question, but it was not always clear. I noticed a weak thesis, but I thought your opinions were clear, just not on topic. In the third paragraph, you were discussing "time management" and "buffer time," so to me, you didn't answer whether or not college was worth the time invested to earn a college education. For your second paragraph, you ended on a quote, and this left me questioning why this quote was important to your argument.

As expressed in your email, you feel that my comments about "ending paragraphs with quotes seem like opinion"; however, this is not the case. When I grade and comment about sources, I follow the I.C.E. Method: Integrate, Cite, and Explain. Information about integrations and citations are clear in the textbook, but explanations generally understood because you should end with your ideas. There is information available on page 174 and the top of page 628. On page 674 in the *Little, Brown Handbook*, the last sentence is a paraphrase, not direct quotes as seen in your paper. For your second paragraph, I do feel you needed to end with your words to wrap the paragraph up. However, I do agree with your

explanation about the quote in the first paragraph. Although you ended on a quote, I agree it more self-explanatory, and it wrapped up your paragraph. I am adding five points to your grade.

After adjusting the midterm grade, your current average for the course is an 85 B. For college, this is a good grade, and I do feel you are working hard and can pull this grade up. To help you and your classmates with the next assignment, I am emailing Mrs. D a handout and PowerPoint I use in my on-campus class. I also informed her that you can email me a rough draft of the next paper, and I will give you feedback before you submit the draft.

Let me know if you have any more questions.

A

On Thu, Dec 5, 2013 at 9:03 PM, A<@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Ms. A, my name is K and I am currently enrolled in the Dual Enrollment class you offer at xx High School. As you know, we recently took our midterms, and after looking at the grade I received, I have a few comments. To begin with, the program I am required to use in order to type and submit my essay glitched when there were only thirty minutes remaining in the 2 hour time limit given to us to complete the midterm. For an hour and a half, I diligently worked on my essay until My CompLab glitched and my entire essay was gone, leaving me dumbfounded and rushing to restart the essay. That is the reason why my paper had several errors, and I strongly believe you should take into consideration that I, technically, only had thirty minutes to start and complete my midterm, opposed to the two hours provided to the other students, all because the program that you required us to use deleted my ready-to-submit paper.

After reviewing my essay again and browsing through your comments, I noticed that my second paragraph should have been extended, but due to the lack of time, I was rushing to finish my paper and focused mainly on my concluding paragraphs and that is why the paragraph was lacking in several aspects. Then, when browsing through your other teacher's comments, I noticed that you commented that parts of my paper were not on topic. I need more of an explanation as to why you felt that way because it seems like you did not agree with the personal stance I took on the topic. For my last paper, you commented that you wanted more of my personal opinion and my personal views in my next paper. This paper, I took into consideration all of your previous notes, and I added several personal opinions to this paper just like it was asked of me, but yet, you still disagreed with the way I wrote my paper, even though the information you requested was there. The information I used was modified to fit my view on the topic, and I should not be penalized for my opinion solely because you did not understand it and/or do not agree with it.

Also, your comments about me straying off topic and ending paragraphs with quotes seem like opinion to me as well because in the Little, Brown Handbook on page 674, the last paragraph ends with a quote. I checked this Handbook that you provided us with and did not see in any instance where it was an English rule that I could not end my paragraph in a quote, and that is what made your comment seem opinionated to me. I think that the quote I used to end my first paragraph was appropriate and easy to

understand to any higher level reader that would view my paper because I believe it was self-explanatory.

I thought this course was all about learning to construct papers correctly and how to write research papers, yet all I am learning how to do is conform to someone else's opinion and disregard my own. I feel as though my style of writing is looked at as lower, not appreciated, and all of my hard work on these papers is being overlooked. I have no idea what you want from me in this course, and I would like some clear instructions on what to do to earn an A in your class. These low B's are disappointing to me. As a student who allows herself nothing lower than an A, I need to know your style of grading, and the type of English writing that I need to do for you. I honestly cannot continue on with making these lower grades because I am not the type of student to just accept whatever is given to her. I will work for the A that I know I can earn. Please help me to understand this English course because right now, I am completely confused as to what you want from me. When I am writing my essays, my English teacher, Mrs. D is telling me how my papers are structured correctly and how great they are, but when I log onto CompLab, I find a disappointing grade waiting for me. I will eagerly await your helpful response.

K