

# A CAUTIONARY TALE

## Or

### How and Why an Easy-Going Instructor Turned Mean

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*Cathy McQueen*

From: John Doe  
Date: Dec 5, 2005 11:47 AM  
Subject: rht160  
To: mqueen@oakland.edu

This is John Doe,

I wanted to explain again. You were so busy but i couldn't stay for the in class test. my car has been a pain—thats why all of those lates!!!—and i need to get it to the shop today. i'll come by your office wed to drop off the test. Somebody said we needed to bring a ad and talk about it. Is that right?

John

From: John Doe  
Date: Dec 6, 2005 1:15 AM  
Subject: rht160

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

Oops! i forgot—class room or office on wed? thank you

John

From: John Doe

Date: Dec 7, 2005 3:15 PM

Subject: rht160

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

I cant believe that i forgot all that stuff with my final paper. I will drop it off tomorrow for sure.

Sincerly.

John

From: John Doe

Date: Dec 8, 2005 4:06 PM

Subject: rht160

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

sorry. i'm very sick. i'll be buy tomorrow.

John

From: John Doe

Date: Dec 10, 2005 8:26 PM

Subject: rht160

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

My car is not working. i am trying to borrow my sisters car.

John

From: John Doe

Date: Dec 11, 2005 8:15 PM

Subject: rht160

To: mqueen@okland.edu

I need just a few more time. My field research guy is out of town and wont be back until tomorrow. I'll get him to ok the work and drop it off.

John

From: John Doe  
Date: Dec 12, 2005 10:18 PM  
Subject: rht160  
To: mqueen@oakland.edu

You wont believe this but i forgot to get his sign on the paper.  
Tomorrow for sure. will you be at your office in the morning?  
see you then.

Sinerely,  
John

From: John Doe  
Date: Dec 14, 2005 8:15 PM  
Subject: rht160  
To: mqueen@okland.edu

This is John Doe,

I just want to let you know that i have a 1130 haircut tomorrow  
and am dropping off my paper right after that. It should be in  
your box around noon or so. Sorry it wasnt in sooner, i have  
been really sick this week. Please email me back so i know that  
you got this.

Thank you again,  
Sincerly,  
John R. Doe

From: John Doe  
Date: Dec 15, 2005 12:38 PM  
Subject: Final paper  
To: mqueen@oakland.edu

The paper is in your mailbox. Please email me back when you  
get it.

Thank you again!  
Sincerly,  
John R. Doe

From: John Doe  
Date: Dec 16, 2005 10:34 PM  
Subject: rht160  
To: mqueen@oakland.edu  
This is John Doe again.  
Plese let me know that you got my paper.  
thank.

From: mqueen@oakland.edu  
Date: Dec 21, 2005 8:15 AM  
Subject: Final paper  
To: John Doe

Hi John. Your paper is still in my mailbox. I had to go out of town on a family emergency and have not been back to OU. The office closes tomorrow and I won't be able to get back to campus by then. I probably won't be back until classes start in January. You did tell me that the paper would be done by Friday, Dec. 9 and I did check on Monday the 12th. You could talk to the department about what to do. You may be able to get an incomplete. Contact the head of Rhetoric, Dr. Horning. Good luck. C. McQueen

From: John Doe  
Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 6:12 PM  
Subject: Re: Final paper  
To: mqueen@oakland.edu

You told me it had to be turned in by the 15th. That's when it was turned in. What do I do? I don't want an incomplete . . . it was turned in on time to what you told me to do it. What is her email so I can email her with the situation . . . it was turned in when you told me to. remember how you said, to turn it in by the 17th, when grades were due and I said that it would be earlier so you can grade it? and you told me to turn it in by the 15th, which it has been turned in. An incomplete is not going to be ok.

From: John Doe

Date: Thursday, December 22, 2005 11:23 AM

Subject: Re: Final paper

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

I contacted the department, they close at noon today, but she did say you can do a grade change next semester. So its basically the same as an incomplete, just when the paper is graded we can submit and grade change form to the department. I hope everything is ok with your family, my prayers are with you.

Sincely,

John

From: John Doe

Date: Thursday, January 5, 2006 12:14 AM

Subject:\* Rht 160

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

I was wondering if you graded my paper for the grade change form yet?

please let me know as soon as possible. thanks alot!!

Sincerly,

John Doe

From: C McQueen

Date: Saturday, January 7, 2006 11:23 AM

Subject: Re: Final paper

To: John Doe

Hi John. I read your paper. There were some problems.

—It was short. The assignment was 10–12 pages of Text. You have 5–6 pages.

—Your thesis was too broad.

—Your supports were weak. The data from Maine needs to be related to MI and it was almost 10 years old.

—Your field research was weak. Officer Jones was never given credibility. Is he a cadet? Any road experience? What Department? Police or Fire or Military? Years of experience? Date of interview? List of questions?

- Your supports were confusing. Page 1 Smith said she was too close but you never explained if she was at the regulation distance. On page 3, did she adjust the seat belt from the original position? Also you said that she was wearing a seat belt but later said “if (she) used her” belt.
  - No mention of the opposition.
  - Paragraphs tend to ramble with a listing of data without any development.
  - Weak conclusion.
  - In text citations and Bibliography were not done correctly.
- You have not demonstrated that you can write a documented research paper. I can not change the grade. C. McQueen

From: John Doe

Date: Monday, January 9, 2006 12:14 AM

Subject: Rht 160

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

Ok, can i get an incomplete since you had to leave town before grades were due? I thought i did a pretty good job on the final paper. Let me know what i can do. Thanks

From: C McQueen

Date: Monday, January 9, 2006 11:23 AM

Subject: Re: Final paper

To: John Doe

I'm sorry but it is too late for an incomplete. You will have to retake RHT 160. Pay close attention to supports - what makes them credible—plus the development and building of a credible argument.

From: John Doe

Date: Wednesday, January 11, 2006 1:47 AM

Subject: Re: Rht 160

To: mqueen@oakland.edu

who is the head of the department, i would like to speak to somebody about how this was handled. If its not too late for a grade change, its not too late for an incomplete