

### **Example 3: Partial credit for assignment**

This student's work shows some grasp of the material, but it is written sloppily, with errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation.

*Through out this weeks reading, three major themes stuck out: Accurate punctuation, clear diction and thought organization, and instinctual revision. All of these seem to be basic elements that, if misused, could lead to a seriously devastating (and sometimes funny) misunderstanding.*

*To begin with, the importance of punctuation is a topic in writing that persists and shows no indication that it is going away soon. As Robert J. Samuelson explained in his article, "The Sad Fate of the Comma," that the comma is a result of the American lifestyle, and seen as clutter for some readers as well as inexperienced writers. A good writer, on the other hand, knows that a comma is the difference between a literal and non-sexual phrase and a vulgar, dirty phrase.*

*Alongside the importance of punctuation, clear diction and word choice is another theme that has the potential to throw some readers as well as writers for a loop. For instance, homophones such as "mote" and "moat" are the difference between a ditch outside the castle and a speck of dirt or sand outside the castle. Another good example is the difference between "effect" and "affect." Where "effect" usually serves as a noun, and "affect" serves as a verb. The difference among homophones are crucial to conveying the message that a writer wants to communicate. Thought organization can also be an important element of understanding. As the class discussed this morning, sometimes saying that you helped your Uncle Jack off a horse is the correct way to say it if you have more than one Uncle-- which a lot of people do, unless one or both of their parents is an only child. However, adding the word "of" after "off" can change the sentence to a clean sentence.*