

Example of Work Put on Display in Class

This is an example of strong work I displayed on screen and asked a student to explain. The references to Fred and Wanda are from a video I created about clarity, using an old story about a Baptist church being mistaken for a bathroom commode:

This week, clarity, punctuation and style were key points in the lecture. These elements seemed contradictory at first, but together they create tight, understandable writing.

Fred and Wanda's inquiry about the B.C. demonstrates the importance of clarity. In a face-to-face conversation, a misunderstanding can be much more detectable than in writing. Had their conversation with the owner of the campground taken place in person or over the phone, Fred and Wanda would have quickly voiced their concerns about a bathroom that seats 250 people, and cleared up the misunderstanding. When in doubt: over-clarify; it saves time and prevents misunderstanding.

Punctuation is a great tool to help clarify. My father's favorite grammar joke features Uncle Jack and a horse. With out the proper use of commas and capitalization the sentence, "I once helped my uncle, Jack, off a horse," becomes "I once helped my uncle jack off a horse." With proper punctuation, a serious misunderstanding can be prevented. The articles on punctuation were very clear on how to fix common mistakes, which I now hope to never make again.

The lecture on style was particularly interesting. I came into this class assuming I would need to memorize the AP Stylebook from front to back, but the lecture stressed the importance of using the stylebook as a guideline. Rather than AP, it's more important to maintain the writer's style (when grammatically correct) or a regional style, which for our class would be Kansan style.