Context:
The assignment is one I have used for three years and has proven very helpful in showing students that they should rely upon their MLA/Grammar text instead of spell check. It consists of a short essay, with a useful message for the reader that contains several mistakes including incorrect word usage, no paragraphing and an incorrect Work Cited page. The assignment is best used after the basics of MLA have been covered. For my class, this works best around week four of the semester, with a variant (change which words are misused and correct some mistakes) used a few weeks later. Students respond well to the exercise and understand the need to work closely with an MLA text.

Studying the Studious

They’re are several reasons students have problems keeping up in their course work. An examination of study habits show that everyone of the students interviewed in a recent survey has this problem. It also shows that its a problem that plagues many upper classmen as well as freshmen. You’re best bet is too study a little each night, according to most instructors. Every one who follows this advice will see an increase in their grade average and in their overall time for recreational activities. Too begin with, we should look at the work of Professor Jon Dough. Dr. Dough interviewed students as part of a program to further understand the problems facing university students. Dough book is titled Interviews with the Crowd. Every one who reads the book will develop an understanding of the students concern over study habits. There are too many interviews too cover all of them in this short essay so three will serve as examples. The first interview in the Interviews with the Crowd records, “David, a Freshman at What’s Amata U. feels their are many reasons for a fear of study” (Dough 2). This shows that the students are concerned with study habits. Dough sums this up as the, “freshman fear” (Dough 25) and feels it leads to many bad habits in they’re future. A second student named Johnny, states, “I feel that the work is too much and to hard because I tend to let it go until the last minute. Its my problem and its the reason I suffer so much in my classes (qtd. in Dough 57). Think about what this student is saying. The work is hard do too the time the student has waited to begin the assigned work. Anyone can change this with a little work. Anyone who changes to a more evenly paced study mode will find it’s much easier. Katie, a Junior, states, “I begin my work as soon as the assignment is given. I didn’t always due this, but now I get better grades. Too bad I didn’t do this until this semester” (qtd. in Dough 79). Katie’s statement shows that anyone can due the coarse work if they balance their schedule. It’s also a statement too the way bad study habits can hurt students beyond their freshman year. As shown above, Freshman are not the only ones facing problems with they’re study habits. Juniors and even those about to graduate continue to suffer as long as they don’t
understand the issues of time management. Dr. Waldo Polecut, Professor of Sociology at Pittsburgh University, writes about this problem in his book, Polecut knows the Way. Polecut states, “The upperclassmen do not always know better then the freshmen about study habits” (54). This supports the idea that all students need to be aware of their study habits. There are many ways this can be corrected. “The first thing a student should do is to begin studying or researching as early as possible after the assignment is given” (Polecut p67). By studying or researching early, the workload can be spread out throughout the semester. The student can get a way with working only a couple of hours every other day, in the case of a final paper assigned months in advance. By contrast, a student who waits is rushed to finish the work on time and does not have the time needed to proofread the paper. Polecut calls this the “Way of the A” (78). Too gain this improved grade is as easy as setting a schedule and sticking to it. In conclusion, there are several reasons students have to worry about pacing their coursework. Examination of study habits suggests that students worry about study time. Freshmen are not the only students who suffer from this problem. If time management is not learned early, upperclassmen will suffer to. Your best bet is to study a little each day and maintain a constant schedule. That way you can study and have a social life.

Works Sited


Dough, Jon. Interviews with the Crowd Behive Press Boston 1990