

Common Errors – Student/Research Essay

wayne.smith@csun.edu

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Course: *MGT 360*

Title: *Management and Organizational Behavior (3 units)*

“Understand the purpose of inspection; that is, for improvement of processes and reduction of cost.”

---*W. Edwards Deming (1900-1993)*

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to enumerate how students lost points for this assignment. This assignment has been given each semester since Fall, 2006. All individuals make mistakes. Wise individuals learn from their mistakes and the mistakes of others. Wise individuals learn as much as possible the “easy” way; that is, they learn via education in class. “Learning on the job,” that is, learning via experience, is more expensive. Speculating for a moment, my guess is that most of the following errors were rooted either in 1), not allocating enough time, and/or 2), not having another person double-check your work.

The following errors are ordered from most common to least common.

Student provided “the answer” not “how to study the problem”

Discussion:

The question in the second part of the assignment asks the student to “how one might study the problem.” This might involve narrowing the question, offering alternatives, reviewing what others have written about this issue, and generating recommendations. Sometimes the study might involve direct observation, a survey, or some other type of data capture. That work is different from “the answer.” It is fine to state a preference, but the “answer” is not what is called for in the question.

Recommendation:

Slow down and re-read the question