A CAUTIONARY TALE

Or

How and Why an Easy-Going Instructor Turned Mean

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 can’t believe that I forgot all that stuff with my final paper. I will drop it off tomorrow for sure.
Sincerely.
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@oakland.edu
I need just a few more time. My field research guy is out of town and won’t 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@oakland.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!
Sincerely,
John R. Doe
From: John Doe  
Date: Dec 16, 2005 10:34 PM  
Subject: rht160  
To: mqueen@oakland.edu  
This is John Doe again.  
Please 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 my the 15th. Thats when it was turned in. What do i do? I dont 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 was 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.  
Sincerely,  
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!!  
Sincerely,  
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 to late for a grade change, its not too late for an incomplete