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English 101

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Agony and Ennui: The Story of the Lecture

Many students wonder how the lecture originated. At first, no professors lectured at all, but instead used more primitive ways of encouraging learning. Renaissance Spaniards, ever eager to enlighten their students, found devices such as the rack, hot iron, and thumbscrews to be effective motivation for their pupils (Torquemada 72). It worked so well that 95 percent of the population accepted instruction (Wheeler 319).

These early techniques of settling debates and instilling knowledge were indeed effective, but required a large volume of space in each classroom. De Sade suggests, "Early compromises such as teaching composition in dungeons proved inefficient" (221). He also notes that the janitor's guild complained about the time it took to clean up the mess after each lesson (223). Professor J. Dahlmer at the Institute for Advanced Psychological Study suggests more modern techniques are necessary:

Many students complain that lectures bore them. Who wants to learn about enthymemes, syllogisms, and persuasive argument? I propose adding spice to academic life. Let the administration plant land-mines and trapdoors in the halls. . . . Teachers could install electrical shock devices to randomly "zap" students at their desks. This innovation would keep students awake and alert. (18)

This suggestion has gained popularity with other persons of substance. The celebrity Charles Manson said in an interview with reporters, "I know that some backward humanists oppose this idea in general, but I find the suggestion delightful. Why stop there? Let's incorporate guillotines as well" (76). Certainly, such items are becoming cheaper as the latest Middle Eastern war winds

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closely as possible. If you are quoting three or fewer lines of verse, insert a slash (a mark like this /) to indicate the place where each line ends on the page, but such backslashes are not necessary for works in prose.

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Note that the entire page is double-spaced. List the entries alphabetically by author's last name. Although the very first name in each entry is listed "last-name first, first-name last," all the later names are listed in the normal order. The first line of each entry is flush with the left margin, but all later lines in the entry are "hanging," i.e., indented one-half inch. If you quote two sources by a single author, you should indicate the same author by using three hyphens and a period to begin the other entries, as is the case with Genghis Khan in this example. A period appears after the title of a book, but no period after the title of a magazine or journal. Note that the abbreviations "U P" for "University Press" do not use periods, but abbreviations such as "pub." for publisher do. If there are more than three authors or editors, list only the first individual's name, followed by the Latin phrase "et al." Normally, the entry ends with either a publication date, or with page numbers in situations where you refer only to part of a larger source, and a period.