

# eCampus Stuff for ASTR/PHYS 109<sup>1</sup>

## Online Quizzes, Pre-Lecture Reading Questions and Papers

### 1. Overview stuff

All the online work in this course will be done using the eCampus system. eCampus is an online system used for all A&M students (known by some people as eLearning, WebCT, or Blackboard Vista). You will login using your NetID. To access it you will go to <http://ecampus.tamu.edu>. Within the course we will use it in a number of different ways (see footnotes for everything other than quizzes). Specifically for:

- Papers<sup>2</sup>: Peerceptiv & TurnItIn<sup>3</sup>
- Pre-Lecture Reading Questions (PLRQ)<sup>4</sup>: PLRQ Quizzes TurnItIn
- Quizzes: Warm-Up Quizzes & End-of-Chapter (EOC) quizzes
- Feynman Diagram Assignments<sup>5</sup>
- Other: Announcements & Grades

#### 1.1 Technical Questions

*Q: How do I log in eCampus and access the course?*

A: Go to <http://ecampus.tamu.edu>, then click on "Log in" button after which you will be asked for your NetID and password. Once you log in to eCampus successfully, you should see a list of courses which are available to you, including this course.

*Q: Do all browsers work for eCampus?*

A: Nope, but which ones do changes over time. Click on the **Check Browser** button to check. Some people have trouble with Safari on a Mac. We've had no problems in the Open Access Labs, we recommend going there if you are having trouble on your Mac or phone. More help at <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/eCampusTechnicalProblems.shtml>

*Q: What if I'm having trouble getting into eCampus, or my quiz/Peerceptiv/TurnItIn isn't working?*

A: A&M provides support for using eCampus. You can go to any <http://oalinfo.tamu.edu/> Open Access Lab or the <http://hdc.tamu.edu/> Helpdesk in Teague, or call the helpdesk at 979-854-8300. <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/eCampusTechnicalProblems.shtml>

*Q: How do I get back to the text of the questions and all the answer options/feedback if I need to email 109QuizHelp for more attempts?*

A: This is described in Section 3.1 of this document

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<sup>1</sup> This document is at [http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus\\_Quiz\\_Instructions\\_and\\_Help.pdf](http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus_Quiz_Instructions_and_Help.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For more go to [http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/WritingAssignments/Papers\\_and\\_Peerceptiv.pdf](http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/WritingAssignments/Papers_and_Peerceptiv.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> For more go to <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/WritingAssignments/InstructionsforTurnitin.shtml>

<sup>4</sup> For more go to [http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/PLRQ\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/PLRQ_Guidelines.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> For more go to <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/Diagrams/FeynmanDiagramAssignments.pdf>

## 2. Quizzes in eCampus

There are four types of quizzes in eCampus for this course. They are:

1. Required Warmups
2. PLRQ Quizzes
3. End of Chapter Quizzes
4. Feynman Diagram Assignments

All quizzes are in the “Quizzes” folder on eCampus. In that folder, you will see a set of folders for each of the quizzes themselves. After we have described each of the types of assignments, we will comment more on getting more attempts. We next describe each in turn.

### 2.1 Required Warmups

There are 4 parts to the Warmups, and they will be done at various times throughout the semester.

- Part 1 - Course Orientation (2 quizzes) and AMS<sup>6</sup>
- Part 2 - How to ask for help/additional attempts (6 quizzes, and 1 optional help quizzes)
- Part 3 - Requirements (1 quiz)
- Part 4 - Peerceptiv (2 quizzes)

None of these quizzes count for a grade, but are required. They are designed to be easy (if you have fully read the instructions and <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/CourseOrganization.pdf>) and help you get good at both eCampus and the understand the assignments (and how to get help) before we do things which do count for a grade. The bad news is you need to get a 100% on all of them. The good news is that you get unlimited attempts to do so (although we limit the number attempts you get before you need to ask for help; for more see below), and there is typically feedback for each question. All the quizzes in a Part will open up at the same time, but it will take a 100% on each before the next Part will open up. This is described in more detail in the quiz instructions themselves on ecampus. The one exception is the Astronomy Misconception Survey (AMS) quiz. It also doesn't count but you just get one attempt since we just want to know how much you know about astronomy coming into the course. Just do the best you can.

### 2.2 PLRQ Quizzes

When these are done with the Required Warmup quizzes Parts 1-3, the PLRQ Quizzes folder becomes available. There is one quiz per Unit (there are 6 units in the book) and it is designed to help you with both the reading BEFORE lecture and get you to be good at thinking about how to ask Scientific questions. In the “Quizzes” folder look for the “PLRQ Quizzes” folder. The first quiz is for Unit 1. Note that the PLRQ quizzes are typically due BEFORE we start the first chapter in the unit in lecture (obviously this will not be true for Unit 1). For each, we will give you unlimited attempts to get as high a score as you like, and we will only count your best score. Again we limit the number of attempts you get before you need to ask for help; for more see below.

### 2.3: End of Chapter (EOC) Quizzes

After you have attempted each of the PLRQ Unit 1 quizzes, the End-Of-Chapter Quizzes folder becomes available. There are one or more quizzes per chapter, and they are designed to help ensure you have a

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<sup>6</sup> AMS does not require you to get a 100%. We just want to see what you know. You only get one try, so please do the best you can.

good knowledge of some of the important facts for each chapter for use in later chapters. In the “Quizzes” folder look for the “End-of-Chapter Quizzes” folder. The first quiz is a quiz about asking for more attempts (no Chapter 1 quiz). Note that the EOC quizzes are only due AFTER we finish the chapter in lecture. *You must get a 50% to move on to later quizzes and you get unlimited attempts (modulo the same caveat above). Only your best score will be counted as part of your grade.*

#### **2.4: Feynman Diagram Assignments**

Later in the semester, after we are done with Chapter 7, you will have some assignments on how to draw diagrams that describe the interactions of particles. These are known as Feynman Diagrams. For more information on how this assignment is done, and how the assignments are graded, see <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/Diagrams/FeynmanDiagramAssignments.pdf>

#### **2.5: More comments on the number of attempts for each quiz**

We want to give you unlimited attempts to both maximize your learning and allow you to maximize your learning (and your score). However, we need to discourage guessing. For this reason, if you use more than 5 attempts you will have to request more. Below you will find specific instructions on how to request more attempts; following the proper format helps us help you as we get hundreds of these requests and we haven't memorized all the quizzes.

### 3: Getting Help/More Attempts for Quizzes in eCampus

This section describes what to do if you are struggling with a quiz and want/need to do better. For example, you don't know how to get a question right and you want more points, or because you can't get enough points to pass the quiz and you have run out of attempts. While we recommend looking at the hints (and taking the help quizzes if they exist), sometimes that isn't enough and you need to request help. We are here to help. Of course, our goal is to help you understand, in particular to get you from not understanding to understanding. The process described here is designed to help you do that, or just show that you now understand.

*Note that the instructions for getting more attempts for Feynman Diagrams can be found at <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/Diagrams/FeynmanDiagramAssignments.pdf>*

#### 3.1 Getting started

Our experience is that the typical problem is either not fully understanding what the question/options are asking, not systematically working through the options, or getting your thinking to change because there is a misunderstanding/misconception. What we have found works best is to have you use a particular format for requesting help/additional attempts where we ask you to systematically put into writing the question, the feedback, the option answers, whether you think the option has a yes or no answer, and (most importantly) WHY you think that is the correct answer. You can do this in an email directly or use the worksheet in excel we have provided.

***If you just want help, and don't need more attempts, we encourage you to use the same format as if you need more attempts as it works really well. Said differently, just follow the instructions for Requesting Additional Attempts. See Section 3.1.1.2 for additional details you might find helpful.***

##### 3.1.1 Overview of Requesting Additional Attempts

When you need help or more attempts you will need to *request more attempts using the format described in this section*. A full Request requires you to be able to get back to the information from the quiz itself (and unfortunately it isn't obvious how to get this information). For that reason we start with describing that in Section 3.2. Then we will describe what to do with the information in Section 3.3. Since it may take a little bit to help you understand what you did wrong (we don't just give more attempts for a request), we describe how we will work with you in Section 3.4. In Section 3.5 we give some examples of what good and bad requests look like.

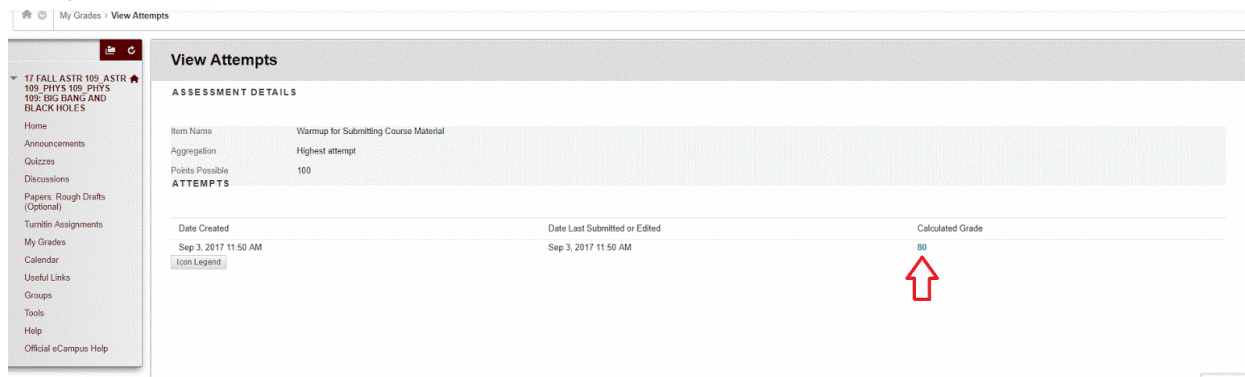
***3.1.1.1: Note 1: Simply requesting more attempts is not enough. You have to both use the right format and have the right answers. If you don't, then we will work with you. However, you will have to start a new email thread with a Revised Request where you have both correct. When we have that THEN we will give you more attempts.***

***3.1.1.2: Note 2: If you got multiple questions wrong on a quiz, pick the ONE question you are MOST struggling with and send that one in. Typically, if we can figure out what is troubling you, that will***

**help you get any other ones right. However, if you can't get the second one right on the additional attempts, send us another Request with the next problem you are most struggling with. We'll iterate, one question at a time, until you understand.**

### 3.2 How to get back the text of the question, options and Feedback after you have taken any quiz

Since requesting more attempts requires you to go back and get a copy of the quiz question, the options and the feedback you will need to get that. To get at it, in eCampus, click on "My Grades" > [find the assignment] > click on "calculated grades" (*Be careful, this is NOT in the quizzes folder, but on the left side of the screen*)



The attempt result will open and show all the information, including your answers and feedback. If there isn't feedback, let us know and we'll add some.

### 3.3 Instructions on the proper format to send your request

Since you may need more attempts for any type of quiz (Warmup, PLRQ or EOC), to get more attempts you will need to send a Request for Additional Attempts email to [109QuizHelp@physics.tamu.edu](mailto:109QuizHelp@physics.tamu.edu) which uses one of the two Required formats.

#### 3.3.1 Overview of the proper format

Since people struggle with this, we'll give the big picture in bullet form, and then give more details below. Examples in Section 3.5:

1. Tell us which question you did not get right (or the one you are struggling with most), and that you have **used the feedback** to figure out how to correctly answer the question<sup>7</sup>. (Of course, some questions have multiple options, where you have to select all the correct options).
2. What we want to see, before giving you more attempts, is that you now know what the **correct answer(s) is(are)**. If you don't know what the correct answer is, then in your email you will tell us what you *think* the CORRECT answer(s) is(are), and **why**, using the format below.
3. Science is a discipline, so being rigorous often makes all the difference. To help us help you, you want to be listing **each option given in the quiz and then give a Yes or No answer for each, as well as WHY you picked it**. For each option that is correct (which you should be able to figure out via the feedback) put Yes and then tell WHY you picked it. For **each option that is not correct say NO, and say WHY you gave a No**. Make sure to keep them in the same order as the original quiz.

<sup>7</sup> Feel free to ask a question to help you understand even if you don't need more attempts.

4. Be sure to put the *correct* answer (or your best guess answer) instead of the one that you picked initially. If, in your request, you get it wrong, that's ok. Telling us WHY you picked what you did for **all options** will help us to see how you are thinking so we can help you get to the right answer. We'll talk about what to do if you don't have it correct in the next section.
5. ***You need to follow the format described below and shown in the examples. Do NOT make up your own format that uses the pieces described above. If you do, we'll just ask you to Revise using the correct format.***

There are 7 pieces of information we need from you, and they can be thought of as being in four separate pieces. Since we get HUNDREDS of these emails we require a special format for them (which you can send to us directly, or use the Worksheet<sup>8</sup>). Please DON'T include any other information from eCampus as that will only make it harder to figure out how to help you. For example, we do NOT want to see your Selected Answer(s), so please don't copy/paste them from eCampus. We don't need commentary before or after the information.

### 3.3.1 Specifics of the proper format

Before describing each of the pieces, it is useful to say what we mean when you use the words Question and Option. Each quiz has a number of Questions. Within each question there are a number of Options where you have to indicate a Yes/No answer. If you aren't going to use the Worksheet, the REQUIRED format is:

1. The ***name*** of the quiz you are having trouble with, and the ***question number***
2. The ***full text*** of the question you are struggling with (don't just send the part you think is important)
3. For the next four pieces of information, which are about each of the Yes/No options listed in the quiz question, put all four pieces of information on a ***single line*** (like in the examples below) in the **following order**:
  - 3.1. The ***number*** of each option which requires a Yes/No answer
  - 3.2. The ***text*** of each option which requires a Yes/No answer
  - 3.3. The ***Yes/No*** answer you think is the correct one each of the options (we don't need to know what you previously picked). Put this FIRST after the text of the option.
  - 3.4. A sentence on ***WHY*** you think the Yes or No for that option is the correct one. Often telling us why you picked a No for an option is more helpful than why you picked a Yes for a different one. If you REALLY want to tell us more about what you originally picked, that's ok, but do it AFTER you have given what you think is the correct answer and why.
4. A ***Copy/Paste of the feedback from eCampus*** itself (if any) that the quiz gives you when it tells you that you didn't get the question right. If there isn't feedback, just say so. Often there is a LOT of feedback. Make sure to copy/paste ALL of it. This includes the feedback code if there is one. This should go AFTER all your option answers.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/RequestingAttemptsWorksheet.xlsx>

With these pieces of information, in this format, we can usually easily figure out from your Request what is causing you to struggle.<sup>9</sup> If you want to tell us what you originally put and/or why, that's fine but put that AFTER your correct Yes/No & Why answer so we can tell easily which is which. Parenthesis works nicely for this.

### **3.4 What happens after you have submitted your Request for More Attempts**

After you have submitted a Request for Additional Attempts, you will get a response back. If we can tell you completely understand (you gave all the correct Yes/No answers and a correct Why), then we will just give you more attempts so you can get a 100% on the quiz on your next try.

*If you don't have it correct, we'll tell you and you will need to send a Revised Request.* We'll describe that in a moment. Sometimes from your answer it's clear you don't understand everything yet (usually because you didn't carefully read the feedback). In this case, we are going to work with you to understand instead of just giving you more attempts. We understand you may find this frustrating. While you may care most about the points, or getting it done on time, what we care about is you understanding completely. For this reason we will often send you a response which asks leading questions to help you understand, or point you to specific hints in the Feedback. If there is more than one problem we will only comment about **one** of them. The goal is *not* to help you improve your score, but to improve your understanding (so you can improve your score).

After you have received an email back from us telling you that you need to do a Revised Request you have two options:

1. You send us a Revised Request for More Attempts, but this time with the correct Yes/No and Why answers, or
2. You continue the email dialogue until you come to understand the correct answer, and THEN submitted a Revised Request.

Either way Revised Request should have the same format as the original request and should start a ***new email chain*** as if it were the original request. That will make it easier for us to help you. We encourage you to check ALL your Yes/No and WHY answers since you may have multiple problems and we won't identify all of them for you. If you fix one problem but not the others in a Revised Request, you will have to do a second Revised Request, or more.

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<sup>9</sup> Then again, maybe you are correct and we need to fix it in eCampus! If that's the case, we'll give you extra credit!

### 3.5: Three examples of excellent emails

#### 3.5.1 For an End-of-Chapter quiz

Note how simple this format is. There is no extra information and it is easy to tell if they really understood. They followed ALL the instructions and made the TA's life easy. The full text of the original question is given. Each answer option is listed with a number, the option is given, the Yes or No is bolded (a nice touch), and the WHY is very clear. The Feedback is cleanly copied and pasted.

Howdy,

I'm struggling with End of Chapter quiz Chapter 3, Question 12

The question is: "Which of the following are thought of as a composite particle? Select all that apply?"

The answer options are:

1. Atom - **Yes**. Atoms are composed of protons, neutrons and electrons
2. Quark - **No**. Quarks are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
3. Electron - **No**. Electrons are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
4. Neutrino - **No**. Neutrinos are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
5. Proton - **Yes**. Protons are composed of quarks.
6. Photon - **No**. Photons are listed as fundamental particles in Table 3.1
7. Neutron - **Yes**. Neutrons are composed of quarks.

Feedback: Hint: Any particle that is not a fundamental particle must be a composite particle.



**3.5.2 For a PLRQ Unit Quiz: (Note we have used the Worksheet from <http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/RequestingAttemptsWorksheet.xlsx> for this example)**

Some things to note. The student did an excellent job by copying the ENTIRE set of feedback, not just the part that they thought was relevant. They also gave a good reason for each answer option, most importantly why they chose No for a number of the options.

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Note: This is an interactive work sheet. You should have an entry for each box that is yellow. You can print it to .pdf or email the excel file to				
<a href="#">Instructions on how to fill out this sheet can be found here (page 3)</a>				(Last updated 1/21/2018 D. Toback)
Basic Information				
Tell us your name	Joe Student	Tell us the quiz name (e.g. EOC Chapter 13a)	PLRQ Unit 1 Quiz (2019c)	
Tell us the question number	4	Tell us how many option-answers there are	5	
Copy/Paste the full text of the question you are struggling with				
Has there ever been an exact answer as to why retrograde motion occurs?				
A Copy/Paste of the feedback from eCampus itself (if any) that the quiz gives you when it tells you go didn't get the question right. If there isnt feedback, just say "No feedback".				
Feedback on question quality: This question is NOT ACCEPTABLE because it asks a question that was directly answered on page 25 in Figure 4.2. This question shows that the person did not read the assigned material or if they did, missed the captions and figures.				
Feedback on the answer: Retrograde motion occurs because of the motion of planets with respect to earth. Reread Figure 4.2 for a detailed description with pictures				
Information about the option-answers in the quiz that you will either click or not click (Yes/No)				
A Copy/Paste of the text of option-answer 1				
Excellent				
The correct Yes/No answer	No			
WHY that is the correct answer				
This is too close to something answered in the book.				
A Copy/Paste of the text of option-answer 2				
Good				
The correct Yes/No answer	No			
WHY that is the correct answer				
This is too close to something answered in the book.				

Page 2 from a printed .pdf version

A Copy/Paste of the text of option-answer 3				
Borderline				
The correct Yes/No answer	No			
WHY that is the correct answer				
This is too close to something answered in the book.				
A Copy/Paste of the text of option-answer 4				
Bad				
The correct Yes/No answer	No			
WHY that is the correct answer				
This is too close to something answered in the book.				
A Copy/Paste of the text of option-answer 5				
Not Acceptable				
The correct Yes/No answer	Yes			
WHY that is the correct answer				
It was answered directly in the book on page 25.				

### 3.5.3 For a “How To Ask for More Help Quiz” Quiz:

Since many people struggle with the format of how to request additional attempts, we have created quizzes with example BAD student requests so you can see what kind of difficult emails the TA’s get. Here we want YOU to identify (as if you were the TA) what was done correctly and what was not done correctly. The quiz is where you tell us what was done correctly and what was not done correctly

Since students struggle with these quizzes, we want to give you an example of how to request more attempts for them (yes... this is complicated). PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A GOOD REQUEST FOR A QUIZ WHERE YOU ARE ASKED TO EVALUATE A BAD REQUEST. This is taken from the Warmup Quizzes, Part II “How to ask for help/additional attempts for eCampus Quizzes.”

In this example the quiz question you are being asked to evaluate the text. Within our example below we have put the text from eCampus in *RED ITALICS*, and the example of the correct way to request additional attempts is WRITTEN IN BLUE. Note that this example starts on page 6, and ends on 7.

To spell it out super explicit: You want to specify what quiz and what question number. That’s the first blue part. Then you want to give the FULL question from eCampus. That’s ALL the stuff in Red. Then you get back to YOUR content. This is where you LIST the options (in this example there are 4 options), and give your Yes/No and Why answer for each. Then after you are done with that, you give the feedback from the original quiz. Put in Purple.

Hi,

I’m really struggling with question #2 on “How to ask for help/additional attempts for eCampus quizzes 2”

Here is the text of the question (put in italics to make your life easier)

*Evaluate this sample e-mail:*

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*In need more attempts for Requirements 2 Quiz.  
This is the one I had trouble on:*

*How is each Peerceptiv assignment graded?*

*Selected Answers:*

3.

*Answers:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

*Here's why I chose my answers:*

*I chose No for question one because that can't be correct..*

*For question 2 I chose no because those aren't the right numbers.*

*For question three I said Yes because those are the right numbers*

*For question four I said no because I didn't think anything was weighted that way.*

*For question five I said no because I didn't think anything was weighted that way.*

*Response Feedback: Careful. Take a look at*

*[http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus\\_Quiz\\_Instructions\\_and\\_Help.pdf](http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus_Quiz_Instructions_and_Help.pdf) for more hints.*

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After reading the feedback I realized my answers were wrong. Here are my revised answers to all the answer options and why I now am picking each:

1. Does it have the name of the quiz and the question number? - **No**. It has the quiz name, but not the question number.
2. Does it have the full text of the question? - **Yes**. It is there.
3. Does it have a single line that contains each of the following 1) The option number, 2) The original question text, 3) the Yes/No answer, and 4) Why that answer was picked? If any are missing, or not on the same line choose No. - **No**. It has the option number, but not all the information is on the same line. That makes it hard to figure out what's going on.
4. Does it have a Copy/Paste of the feedback from eCampus itself (if any) that the quiz gives you when it tells you go didn't get the question right. If there isn't feedback, just say so. (This may include links or only links) - **Yes**. The feedback is there.

Here is the feedback the quiz gave me:

“Not quite. The person submitting this email made your life REALLY difficult and it's hard to tell what is here and what isn't here. It's very clear that the person sending this email hasn't read the instructions. For example, the option numbers ARE there, but they are buried where it is hard to find them. They certainly don't have the option number on the same line with the text of the option, their Yes/No answers and WHY they picked them.

To help you, the full list of things needed are on page 3 of

[http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus\\_Quiz\\_Instructions\\_and\\_Help.pdf](http://tobackgroup.physics.tamu.edu/toback/109/ECampus_Quiz_Instructions_and_Help.pdf). Looking at the examples on page 4 will help you identify the differences between what is here (which is really bad) and what a good submission looks like.

You can see why getting lots of emails like this from over one hundred students is a serious problem for the instructors. Use font changes and space wisely. Don't include lots of information, like "Answers" and "Selected" in your email, they clutter up the email and aren't needed. You can see why we don't want them.“

