Top Ten Ways to Irritate the Woman who Grades Your Papers

1. Confuse legislation, legislator and legislature.
2. Ignore standard rules of capitalization, and then be inconsistent with the system you have created for yourself.
3. Leave a poor, defenseless question hanging at the bottom of a page, disconnected forever from its loving answer which follows. (Technically, these are called ‘orphans’. They bug me.)
4. Start the numbering for your footnotes over with each page. Give me a Works Cited instead of a Bibliography. Use parenthetical citations instead of footnotes. In other words, ignore my simple request that you use standard, Turabian style citation.
5. Ignore the fact that democratic is a form of governance and Democratic is a political party indicator.
6. Refer to European explorers as the “first Arkansans.”
7. Don’t number your pages. And be sure to delete the numbers for each question in order to make my job more challenging. I love challenges…
8. Refer to your state legislature as “Congress”. And be sure to tell me the names of your federal congressman when I ask for your State Representative. Also, it is possible that your State House has 435 members, but I doubt it.
9. Don’t bother with a cover sheet and please, don’t trouble yourself to have stapled the pages together if you didn’t use a folder. I need a little more dis-organization in my life. And I know that I asked you to mark each source with the footnote number and to present them in footnote order, but that will just make it easier for me to confirm your sources and check on your citations. Easier is just another word for weaker, right? Just toss ‘em all in a pile, and be sure to leave a few out for good measure.
10. Go ahead, plagiarize.