Grammar Police Project

Worth: 10%
Due Dates: Idea and preliminary questions due Tuesday, April 17
      Rough draft of survey/interview questions due Thursday, April 19
      Project due Thursday, April 26

Prompt: As a class, we will investigate and analyze the "phenomenology of error" at Wooster and each of you, after gathering data, will write a short 2-3-page report.
Your task is to investigate, on a small scale, a question pertaining to the following:
      What errors do professors focus and comment on the most?
      What do professors (and/or departments) value in written language?
      What errors do students most worry about (and recognize) in their own writing?
      How do students describe what they value (or what they think their professors value) in written language?

Gathering Data:
To accomplish this, you will need gather data in the form of:
      an interview with a professor, fellow students, or a writing consultant
      a survey for fellow students and friends
      review and analyze any essay rubrics you have or professor comments on your essays
      find and review any information departments have provided about preferred style guides, guidelines for I.S. projects, etc.

You are encouraged, but not required, to use two methods. So, if you survey your friends/classmates, you might also do a short follow-up with one of them. Or, you might gather information from the website about departmental guidelines for I.S. projects, or preferred style guides, etc.

Report Format:
Your report should consist of 3 sections with headings:
Introduction and Methods: 1 paragraph describing the topic of your research and how you went about it.
Findings: 1-2 paragraph summary of the results of your research. You may include a table or chart if relevant. (Note that any tables or graphs must include a title and description.)
Analysis: 2 paragraphs analyzing what you found: what does it mean or suggest? Why is this interesting or significant? How did it connect with Williams or Hairston?