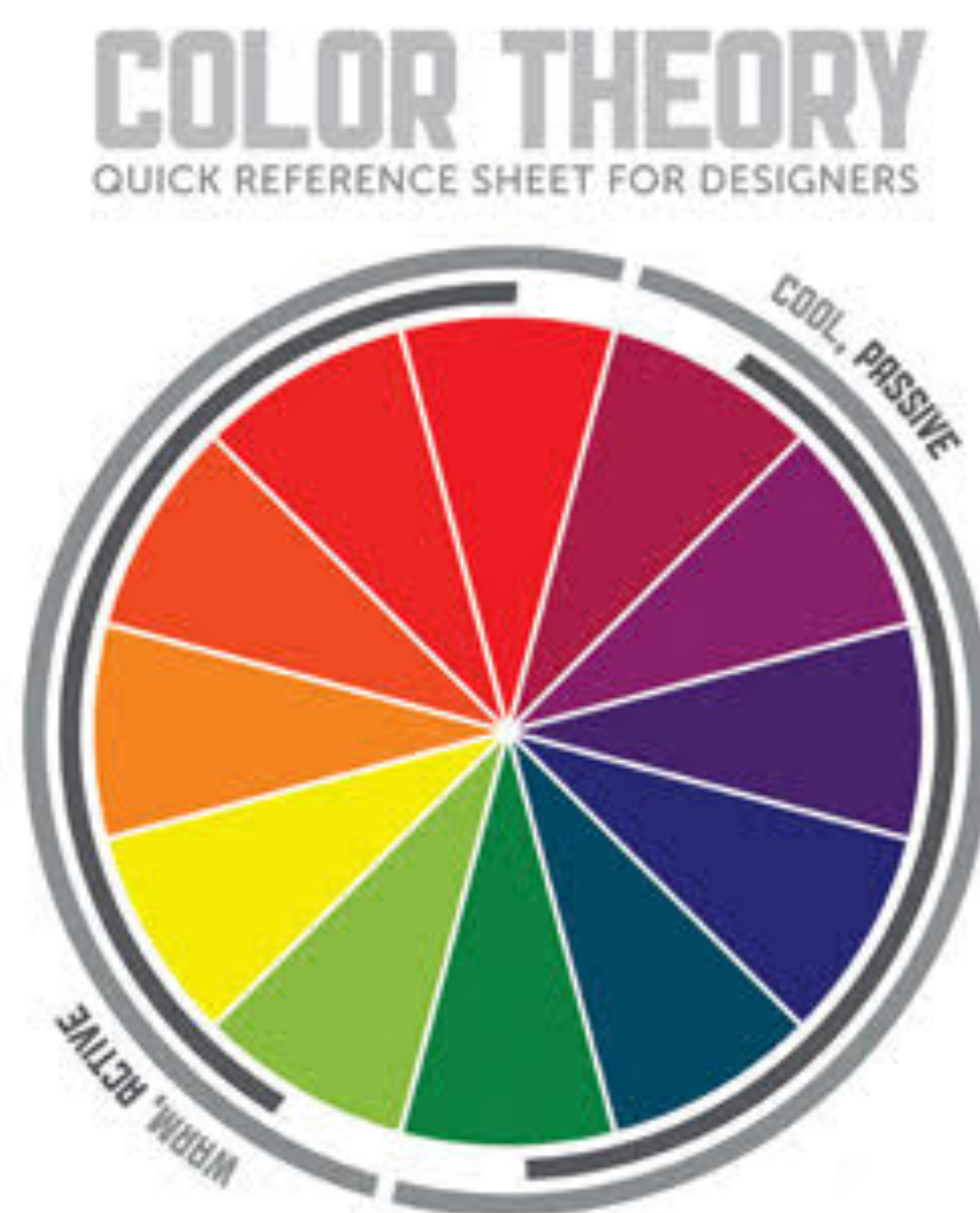


Red Pen Survey: Understanding How Students Perceive Their Professors Based on the Color Pen They Grade With

*Elizabeth Ratliff and Hannah Powell, Communication Arts Department
Dr. Pavica Sheldon, Communication Arts Department*

Introduction

Student-teacher relationships can influence the confidence and success of students in the classroom. We wanted to see if there was a difference in how students felt with professors based on the color pen used to grade with. We used color theory to support our hypothesis.



OR

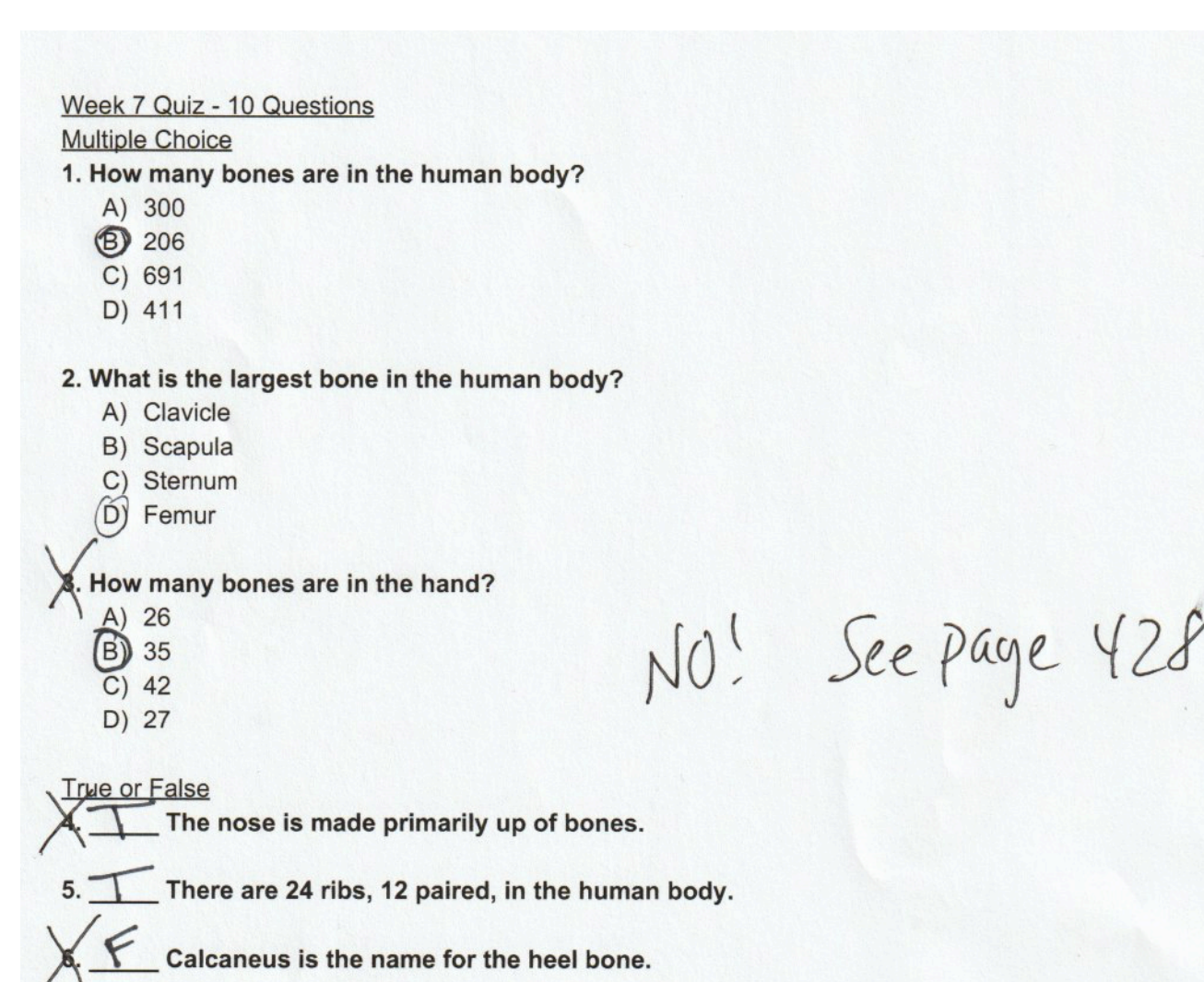
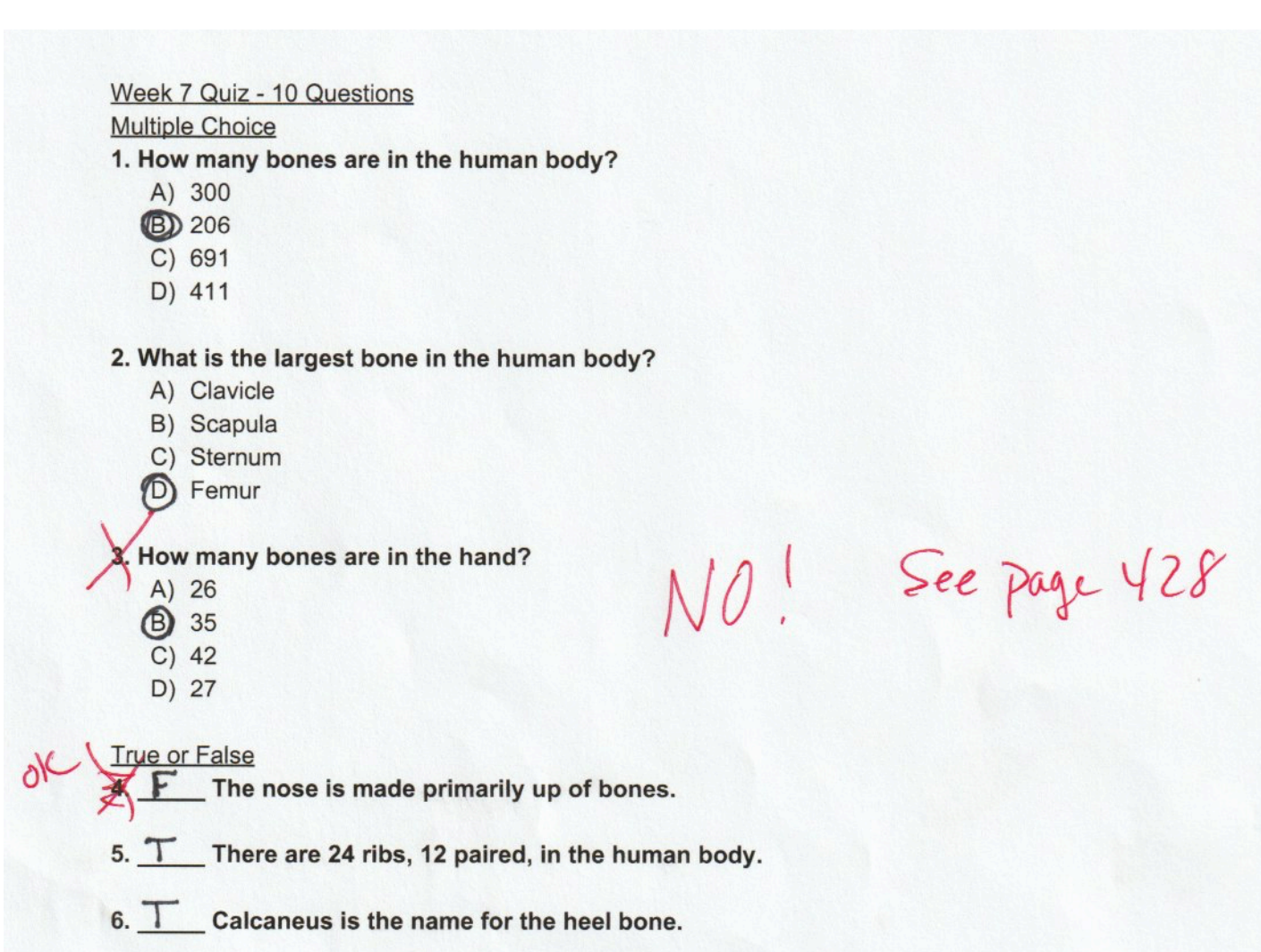
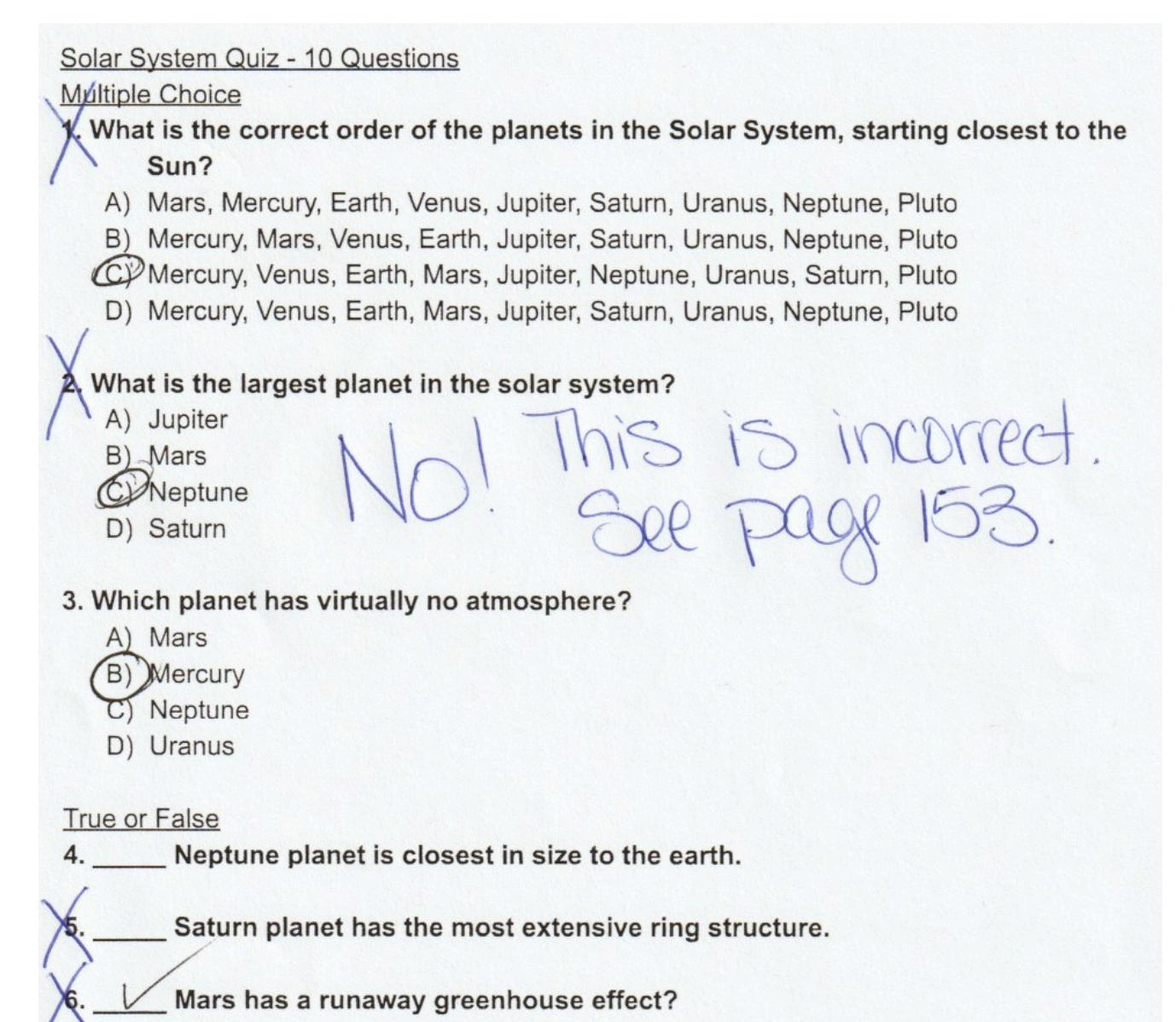
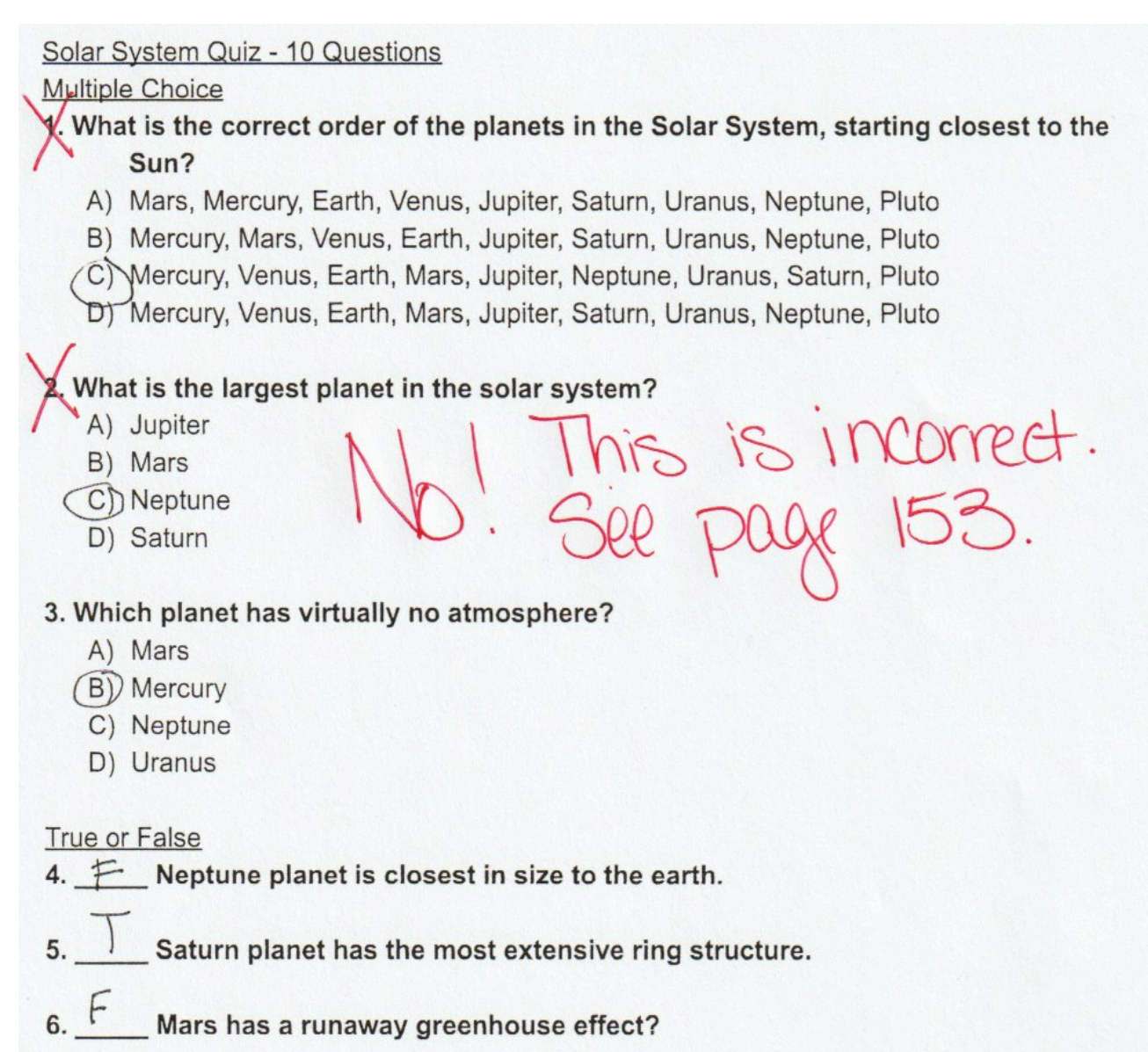


Key Findings

- Lower GPA was correlated with questioning the female's feedback.
- Higher GPA was more accepting of both male and female comments with the blue pen.
- Students felt closer to professors and considered them a friend when they graded with a blue pen.
- They felt more hurt and confrontational when females graded with a red pen.
- Students were more hurt and disapproved of comments when female graded with red pen over the male grading with a red pen.
- There was higher disapproval with the female's negative comments, regardless of the pen color.

Methods

We had 105 participants fill out our questionnaire. The questionnaire included four graded quizzes with feedback – two graded by a female, two graded by a male (with both a red and blue pen). An open comments section was provided for our student participants to leave comments.



Impact

This study can help any professors and teachers within the educational field. The results gathered can show teachers a simple way to subtly show students they care and help students perform better in the classroom.