Providing Annotated Examples Increases Science Learning
Elana A. Paladino
Assistant Professor-in-Residence, College of Sciences

The teaching practice and the need it addresses:
Students are often overwhelmed by “high-stakes” assignments, such as term papers or semester projects. Although instructors provide students with detailed instructions on how to complete these projects, clear examples are often lacking. In order to understand how providing students with an annotated example of a science ethics poster project would impact them, I developed an example and compared students’ performance prior to and after providing the example and found surprising results.

Evidence this practice benefits UNLV students:
Students improved in all areas evaluated including:
1. Poster Design
2. Use and format of APA citations
3. Application of scientific research in Results
4. Analysis of results
The most surprising improvement was more thoughtful analysis and critique, perhaps modeled from the example.

Resources and where to find them:
[http://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency](http://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency)

How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice:
• It is worth the time investment to create an annotated example of a term paper or semester project for your students
• There are some drawbacks to only providing one example, such as using it as a template and copying phrasing, but these may be diminished by developing several examples that are provided online as opposed to emphasizing only one printed copy