The 10 Commandments of Good Grademakers

1. ALWAYS include examples; NEVER write just the definition.

Do not just write one line and think you are done. You aren’t. A good grademaker looks like a full card with a thorough definition and multiple bullet points or examples underneath.

1. ALWAYS include dates, facts, historical figures, and/or whatever else might be related to the term.

Refer to rule number one. Fill up your cards with as much information as possible.

1. NEVER leave out grademakers. Our counting is a large part of your grade, and you lose points if you have fewer than you are supposed to. If you can’t find a term in the book, look it up online, or ask your teacher.

The textbook is the key to making good grademakers with a thorough definition and examples, no matter what AP class you are taking. But if you can’t make a good grademaker with the information provided in the book, there are thousands of Quizlet sets with the terms from each chapter explained and lecture videos you can find on YouTube. Do not just give up on a grademaker just because the book doesn’t provide the information you need.

1. ALWAYS use your best handwriting and write within the lines. They are there for a reason.

This makes your cards *so* much easier to read, and we have to at least scan them to read them. Plus, good writing makes us like you.

1. NEVER put cards in upside down. Seriously, it drives us crazy.
2. ALWAYS use your grademakers to study! You may hate making them, but believe it or not, they exist to help you.

Okay, so this is not strictly related to actually *making* the grademakers. But it does help during the test if you know the basic terminology.

1. ALWAYS be consistent with your formatting.

You can put in cards upside down as long as they are *all* upside down. Consistency is key. If you number one, number all of them. If one is in pen, make the rest of them that way, too. Good presentation will put us in a better mood when grading your work, and will make for a much more useful (and impressive) grademaker stack.

1. NEVER put in blank cards to make it look like you have more. You’re not fooling anyone.

Also, you should never double space or use giant handwriting to make it look like you wrote more than you actually did. It may seem clever at the time, but it is more obvious than you think. We always notice.

1. NEVER reuse grademakers.

You should do your grademakers, but not doing them is preferable to lying or cheating. Besides, pretending isn’t going to help you.

1. ALWAYS be organized. Color coordination (the color of the cards or the writing), color coded tabs, numbered grademakers, etc. are always a good idea.

Making the aids happy is essential to getting a good grade on grademakers. This does not mean bribery or flattery; believe it or not, people have tried. We love seeing organization and good handwriting, and numbering your grademakers is very helpful for us when we count them!

Grademakers will not help you unless you do a good job. They may seem like busywork to you. If you refuse to do them thoroughly or rush through the assignment, that is exactly what they become. Again, they exist to help you learn the terms and study the chapter concepts. Plus, they are easy points if you take advantage of them. If you follow the Ten Commandments, you are almost guaranteed a good grade!