Dear Professor __________________________  Date ______

My grade in ______ should be raised from ___ to ___ because:

____ There must be some mistake somewhere
____ I actually studied for this exam.
____ I was not well at the time of the examination.
____ My mind always goes blank during an examination.
____ This mark ruined my prospect of getting a scholarship/job/a life/a place in medical school.
____ This is the only course in which I received a poor grade.
____ This mark grieved my mother (or father), whose pride and joy I am.
____ I knew the right answer but I wrote down the wrong answer by mistake.
____ I was unable to study due to the pressing demands of fraternity or sorority activities/political demonstrations/sports events/jail/family crisis/roommate suicide/gambling debts/litigation/Weltschmerz.
____ Conditions in the room were not conducive to concentration.
____ The examination was unfair and unfairly distributed over the subject matter.
____ I am married and have a family; therefore I should be given a break.
____ I have to work after school and nights; therefore I should be given a break.
____ I am alone in the world; therefore I should be given a break.
____ I was under stress; therefore I should be given a break.
____ I no speak English good ______ give me a break.
____ I would have done much better if I had taken the examination given to one of the other sections.
____ The person I got the notes from had neglected to write down several key points, I should not be penalized for his/her laxity.
____ Several people around me copied from my paper during the examination yet they received higher marks than I did. Surely, this is not fair.
____ The questions were ambiguous, and therefore my answers should be graded according to the reasonable interpretations I made of your questions.
____ Many of the questions could not be answered with straight facts; they were matters of opinion. I should not be penalized because my opinions differ from those of the instructor.
____ I know many people in the class who do not work as hard as I do and who got a better grade. I am recognized among my classmates as a good and conscientious student; you just ask any of them.
____ I circled the right answers on the questions booklet, as you can now see, but when transferring the information to the answer sheet I inadvertently marked the wrong blanks. Of course a University student should not be penalized for petty clerical errors.
____ I have studied this subject from the broad philosophical viewpoint and therefore was unable to answer your detail-oriented, technical questions.
____ I am philosophically oriented to the realm of ideas; I respond to the sweep and scope of great intellects.
____ My work is beyond the interest in petty details and parrot-like memorizing of those who are merely students.
____ At the time of the examination I was suffering from a severe case of cognitive dissonance and was incapable of coping with the stress of the hour.
____ It is not a higher mark I seek; I care nothing about marks; I think marks are wicked and I disapprove of them. However this pernicious system of which I am a victim requires marks for achieving success, and therefore I seek a higher mark.
____ Check, money order, or motel room key enclosed.

Signed __________________________