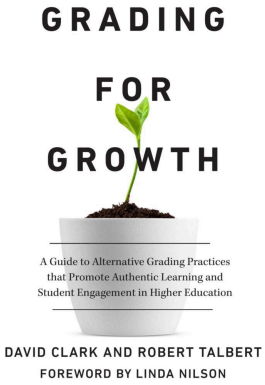
Raising the bar

What works, what doesn't, and what to do next with alternative grading

This document: http://gvsu.edu/s/2vk



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Slides: **Raising the bar with alternative grading - Slides**

Blog: https://gradingforgrowth.com/

Book: *Grading for Growth* is available now! (20% discount code: AEVV23)

Community:

- **Perusall Engage community book event (January 15 - February 9, 2024):** Read *Grading for Growth* asynchronously online and engage with other readers and the authors! ($15 for 60 days access; includes discount code for physical book)
- The Grading Conference: June 13 - 15, 2024, online (STEM focus).
- Ungrading Conference: January 26, 2024, online (languages, literatures, cultures focus).
- Slack alternative grading community (use this link to join): Message board for anyone interested in alternative grading, from K-12 to college and in any discipline.
- Ungrading Discord (link invites you to join): Message board focused on ungrading.
- Twitter, Mastodon, BlueSky: #GradingForGrowth, #ungrading, #AlternativeGrading

Models and samples:

- MTH 210 (Intro to proofs) Syllabus W23 - Hybrid of SBG, Specifications, etc.
- MTH 331 (Euclidean Geometry) Syllabus W23 - Feedback only, portfolio
- Sample syllabi, objectives, and materials from alternatively graded classes in some STEM disciplines: math, physics, bio, chemistry, computer science
- Details: Four pillars, EMRN rubric

Books, blogs, websites:

- Alternative Grading FAQ: Direct answers to commonly asked questions
- Nilson, Linda: **Specifications Grading: Restoring Rigor, Motivating Students, and Saving Faculty Time**. Stylus Publishing, 2014. The bible of Specifications Grading.
- Blum, Susan (ed.): **Ungrading: Why Rating Students Undermines Learning (and What to Do Instead).** West Virginia University Press, 2020. A collection of essays on assessment and ungrading, focused on higher education.

- Feldman, Joe: **Grading for Equity: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How It Can Transform Schools and Classrooms.** Corwin, 2018. Focused on K-12, but readily applies to higher education as well.
- Matt Townsley's Standards-Based Grading resource website (somewhat K-12 focused). Includes summaries of research, examples, and a bibliography.

A few key pieces of alternative grading-related research:

- Butler, R., & Nisan, M. (1986). Effects of no feedback, task-related comments, and grades on intrinsic motivation and performance. Journal of educational psychology, 78(3), 210–216. https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-0663.78.3.210 *A classic study showing how grades can reduce student motivation and interest.*
- Anderman, E. M., & Koenka, A. C. (2017). The Relation Between Academic Motivation and Cheating. Theory Into Practice, 56(2), 95–102. https://doi.org/10.1080/00405841.2017.1308172 *A summary of results from motivation theory on practices that reduce cheating. The four pillars of alternative grading are aligned with these best practices.*
- Lewis, D. (2022). Impacts of Standards-Based Grading on Students' Mindset and Test Anxiety. Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, 22(2), 67-77. https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1347380.pdf *This math-focused study shows a significant reduction in test anxiety when using standards-based grading, including elimination of gender differences.*