


Grading for Growth

Toward more humane, authentic, and trustworthy ways to evaluate student work

Robert Talbert, Ph.D.
Grand Valley State University
27 July 2023

Contact: Robert Talbert – talbertr@gvsu.edu / <http://rtalbert.org> / [LinkedIn](#) / [Twitter](#)

Slides:  Talbert Online Learning Innovations Summit keynote

Grading for Growth blog: <http://gradingforgrowth.com>

Grading for Growth book: Available at [Routledge](#) and on [Amazon](#). At Routledge, use the code **AEVV23** for a 20% discount.

Research

- 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> [Click here for summary at gradingforgrowth.com](#)
- 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. [Click here for summary at gradingforgrowth.com](#)
- Durm, M. W. (1993). An A is not an A is not an A: A history of grading. *The Educational Forum*, 57, 294–297. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00131729309335429>
- Elliot, A. J., & McGregor, H. A. (2001). A 2x2 achievement goal framework. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 80(3), 501-519. <https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1037/0022-3514.80.3.501> [Click here for summary at gradingforgrowth.com](#)

Class materials

- [The EMRN rubric](#)
- [Syllabus for Calculus Fall 2013](#), before converting to specifications grading
- Calculus, Fall 2021 (with specifications grading)
 - [GitHub repository for Calculus](#)
 - [Syllabus for Calculus](#)
 - [Detailed specifications for student work on learning target checkpoints](#)
 - [Folder of checkpoints](#)
 - [Folder of Application/Extension Problems \(AEPs\)](#)

- More courses with alternative grading setups
 - Modern Algebra (ungrading)
 - [Public copy of MTH 350 Winter 2022 Syllabus](#)
 - [Modern Algebra portfolio template](#)
 - [My article at Inside Higher Ed on my experiences](#)
 - Blog posts about this experience:
 - <https://rtalbert.org/into-the-ungrading-verse/>
 - <https://rtalbert.org/ungrading-after-11-weeks/>
 - Discrete Structures for Computer Science 1 (specs grading)
 - [Fall 2021](#)
 - [Spring 2022 online class](#)
 - [Discrete Structures for Computer Science 2](#) (specs grading)
 - [Linear Algebra and Differential Equations](#) (specs grading)

To learn more:

- Specifications grading
 - [What is specifications grading and why should you consider using it?](#)
 - [Yes, Virginia, there's a better way to grade](#)
 - Book: [Specifications Grading: Restoring Rigor, Motivating Students, and Saving Faculty Time](#)
- Ungrading
 - Book: [Ungrading: Why Rating Students Undermines Learning \(and What to Do Instead\)](#)
 - [Ungrading: An FAQ](#)
 - [What is ungrading?](#)
- Standards Based Grading
 - [Standards-Based Grading: Definition, Benefits & Comparison With Traditional Grading](#)
 - [Getting started with standards based grading](#)
- In general
 - Book: [Grading for Equity: What It Is, Why It Matters, and How It Can Transform Schools and Classrooms](#)
 - [Bloom's Taxonomy image](#) at Vanderbilt University
 - [Wired magazine article on feedback loops](#)

Connect:

- Join the [Alternative Grading Slack workspace](#)
- Join us at [the annual Grading Conference](#) (online, June 13-15, 2024)