

Youth Advisory Council - Paradigms & Possibilities Series

AUTHOR INFO



"I live in Texas, but a lot of my family lives in Mexico."

"The best learning experience I ever had was in primary school. My entire grade level was taken outside to learn about liquid nitrogen by making ice cream."

"I want to learn more about design. I'm very curious as to how we can use the design cycle to solve problems that we previously deemed to be unsolvable."



100-POINT SCALE GRADING: I chose this topic due to the sheer effect I've seen grades have on the peers around me. It seems to have created a clear distinction between the students who have good grades and those who don't. There is an obvious difference in terms of demeanor and self-confidence.

Grades have a massive impact on motivation and behavior of students. Through the design of the learning systems we've been taught to value ourselves and judge our intelligence through our grades. Even when our schools tell us that we are more than our grades, it's hard to believe them when the system we've been raised with has taught us otherwise.

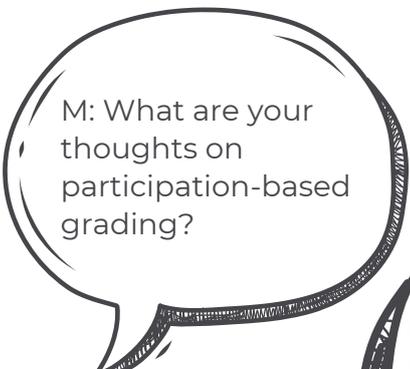
CONSIDERING DIFFERENT APPROACHES

Key Resource: Why some California school districts are changing how students earn grades.

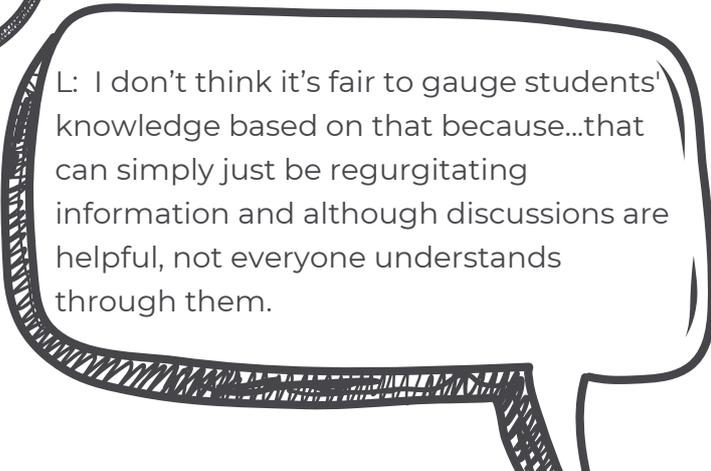


IN THIS EXAMPLE: The change from the original A-F scale removed the D-F grades. Failing grades are known to be a constant stressor for students, so the removal of them is prone to lower the stress levels of students considerably. The main point that critics have on the system's change is that failing grades served as a warning for students and showed them what areas they need to improve on and what they excel at.

What I've learned from California's shift in its grading system, it seems that the grading system's range is not the issue. The main issue is how subjective these grades can be. Grades themselves have no clear criteria for teachers to use when grading. This results in variability in different teacher's grading methods and leaves the grades themselves nearly meaningless.



GATHERING IDEAS FROM OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE...



Possible solution:
National criteria for grading?