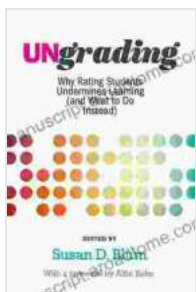


# Why Rating Students Undermines Learning (And What to Do Instead)

In traditional classrooms, students are often evaluated based on their performance on tests, quizzes, and assignments. These grades are used to measure their understanding of the material and to determine their overall achievement. However, a growing body of research suggests that this practice of rating students may actually be undermining their learning.



## Ungrading: Why Rating Students Undermines Learning (and What to Do Instead) (Teaching and Learning in Higher Education) by Susan D. Blum

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1910 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 269 pages  
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



## The Negative Impact of Grading

There are several reasons why grading can have a negative impact on learning. First, grades can create a sense of competition among students. This can lead to students feeling anxious and stressed about their performance, which can interfere with their ability to learn. Second, grades

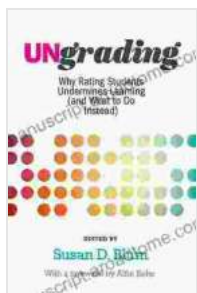
can discourage students from taking risks. If students are afraid of getting a bad grade, they may be less likely to try new things or ask questions in class. Third, grades can lead to students focusing on surface-level learning rather than deep understanding. When students are only concerned with getting a good grade, they may focus on memorizing facts and figures rather than developing a deep understanding of the material.

## **What to Do Instead**

If grading is not an effective way to measure student learning, then what should teachers do instead? There are a number of alternative assessment methods that can be used to promote deeper learning and skill development. These methods include:

- **Performance assessments:** These assessments require students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge by completing a task or project. Examples of performance assessments include portfolios, presentations, and experiments.
- **Observations:** Teachers can observe students as they work on tasks or participate in class discussions. These observations can provide valuable insights into students' learning and skill development.
- **Self-assessments:** Students can be asked to reflect on their own learning and identify areas where they need improvement. Self-assessments can help students develop a sense of ownership over their learning and become more independent learners.
- **Peer assessments:** Students can be asked to assess each other's work. This can help students develop critical thinking skills and learn from their peers.

Rating students is a common practice in schools, but it can actually have a negative impact on learning. There are a number of alternative assessment methods that can promote deeper learning and skill development. By using these methods, teachers can help students learn more effectively and develop the skills they need to succeed in school and beyond.

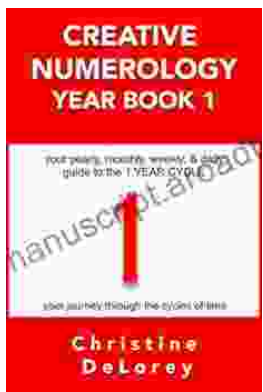


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