



Activity 5.3

Grading in Classrooms and Courses

Learning Target for the Activity

- I can describe the grading practices in one classroom.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to understand the grading practices in one classroom. The purpose is *not* to evaluate the teacher or to suggest changes to their grading practices. It is simply to understand how building and district grading policies and teacher classroom assessment practices work themselves out in one classroom context. The classroom you study may or may not be representative of others in the building/district.

Time

45 minutes

Materials Needed

- Interview questions (see Figure 5.4)

Suggested Room Setup

This is an activity for one school leader and one classroom teacher. Alternatively, two school leaders can do this activity together if one of them teaches a class and is responsible for grading. Use a quiet, private space for a one-on-one interview.

Directions

Complete each step in the order below:

1. Identify a teacher who is willing to share information about how they approach grading.
2. Begin by thanking the teacher (or the other school leader) for being willing to share approaches to grading. Assure the teacher that you are interested in a descriptive example of grading in one classroom and are not evaluating. Ask the interview questions, one at a time. You may follow any of the questions with "Can you tell me more about that?" or "Can you give me an example?" or other similar questions. Be careful to phrase any follow-up questions in value-neutral language.
3. Make notes during the interview to help you process the information and reflect on its value to you as a school leader.

Closure

Both the school leader and the teacher should end this activity with individual self-reflection. Questions for the school leader include the following: What did I learn from this exercise that will be important for me to know in my role as a school leader? What questions do I have? What actions might I take? Questions for the teacher include the following: What did I learn from this exercise in sharing my grading practices? Are there any practices I might want to consider revising?