The Case Against Grades (##)
The Case Against Grades

"I consider it one of the most crucial verbs in the written English language. Every student I have ever heard of, a grade. I am no longer apologizing for it. I can no longer wait for this."

"Better Get Used To It" (Kohn, 2005). The claim here is that we should do unpleasant and unnecessary things to... such things will be done to them later. This justification is exactly as absurd as it sounds, yet it continues to drive...

"Like it or not, grading is here to stay" is a statement no responsible educator would ever offer as an excuse for... interest of students. If it isn't, then our obligation is to work for its elimination and, in the meantime, do what we...

"Drier's final grades are based on students' written self-assessments, which, in turn, are based on their review of... twice a term, in most cases briefly, to assess their performance and, if necessary (although it rarely happens) to...

"If nourishing their... less interested in the learning itself. If nourishing their...

"On-line is a significant step backward because it enhances the salience of those grades and therefore their destructive effects on learning.

"The latter serve to illuminate a series of misconceived assumptions that underlie the use of grading.

"Grades create a preference for the easiest possible task

"To understand why research finds what it does about grades, we need to shift our focus from educational measurement... questions. The latter serve to illuminate a series of misconceived assumptions that underlie the use of grading.

"I had been advocating standards-based grading, which is a very important movement in its own right, but it took a push...

"On the latter view, "the alternative to grades is description" and "the starting point for description is a plain sheet of paper, not a form which leads and homogenizes description" (Marshall, 1968, pp. 131, 143).

"If I spend 18 weeks with them, I have a pretty good idea what... writing and reasoning ability is."
To be notified whenever a new article or blog is posted on this site, please enter your e-mail address at www.alfiekohn.org/sign-up.