From Degrading to De-Grading
Grades can ruin students' interest in the learning itself. One of the best ways to ruin students' interest is to grade them on a regular basis. If you have ever had an instructor who graded you on a regular basis, you know how frustrating it can be to have to do something that you don't find particularly interesting. When you're interested in a subject, you're more likely to do well and you're more likely to enjoy what you're doing. When you're not interested in a subject, you're more likely to fail and you're more likely to have a negative view of the subject. If you're not interested in a subject, you're more likely to have a negative view of the subject.

Some students might be motivated to improve their class rank, but that is completely different from being motivated to understand ideas. Wise educators realize that it doesn't matter how motivated students are; what matters is their attitude. Oddly, when educators are shown that it doesn't have to be this way, some react with suspicion instead of relief. They...