

The Grade Contract

In this course, I want to try something, and I hope you are with me on this. So many students are in college to get the grade, get the degree, and so forth. But what students should be in college for is to learn, challenge themselves, expand their understanding, growth, gain new perspectives. So, by taking away, so to speak, grades, students may be more willing to take risks... rather than try to do what is “correct” or “what the assignment requires.” I have experienced in the past few semesters, that students become more focused on the points rather than the assignment—and thus why you are doing the assignment in the first place.

This does not mean that you can “play the game” and do little work for the highest possible grade. If that is your hope, you will likely get frustrated. But, as I said, if you want to learn, improve yourself, understand the content and its application to your daily lives as well as your work, then perfect!

Let me explain just a little more.

WHY?

Grading contracts are valuable because they:

- Offer students the opportunity to be experimental and exploratory in their writing
- Value the time and labor students decide to commit to the class; privilege students who are investing the time, energy and effort into literacy learning
- Create opportunities for teacher feedback to be more of a genuine response to student writing instead of a justification of a particular grade. In other words, my feed back may be more valuable and helpful to help improve your work and your understanding, rather than how to improve a grade.
- Encourage students to engage with feedback on their writing more
- Provide students with a clear and concrete understanding of their grade at all times throughout the semester; grades are simple and easy to calculate
- Do not penalize or reward students for the level of knowledge about and experience with writing and language prior to entering class
- All students have the same potential to earn an A
- Encourage diverse writing and are accepting of language differences.

Terms of Agreement

Participation & Collaboration.

Weekly Quizzes.

Assignments.

Late Assignments:

Make-up Assignments:

Meeting Conditions. All assignments must meet the following conditions:
On Time.

Proficient +.

Improvement.

The Contract

If we all abide by the above contract: meeting expectations and the goals of the assignment, listening to and addressing to feedback for future assignments, doing things on time unless some unforeseen issue, then it is likely you are putting in the appropriate amount of work, pushing yourself appropriately, and learning along the way. It is possible, however, that the work you do just doesn't match up, that you attempted to coast. Most likely, these assignments won't count as complete assignments or activities throughout the semester.

	Below Proficient Activities/Quizzes	Missing/"0" Activities/Quizzes	Proficient & Below Assignments	Late Assignments	Make Up Assignments	Missing/"0" Assignments
A						
B						
C						
D						
F						

Flexibility.

Mid- and End-of-Semester Reports:

Feedback.

Exceptions

Grade Grievances & Pleas: