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Beyond Grading “Participation”: An Assignment to Promote Engagement and Metacognition in First-Year Writing Classes

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Problems with grading participation

Too often, it's merely summative.

Too often, it's merely subjective.

Daily reflection and engagement grades

Last 5 minutes of each class

Scores from 2 to 5 (default is 4)

Reflection Questions:

- What did you want to say that you didn't have a chance to?
- What was the most significant new idea (and why)?
- What kept you from learning today?
- What did you learn from another student (and why was it valuable)?

Benefits of the engagement grade

Promotes metacognition

Encourages engagement

Provides formative assessment

Lets me know about problems

But what about...

Class time?

Grading time?

Sincerity?

Smith, Hannah

4/6/18

4

I learned that BS is ok in the first draft in your paper as long as you know you have to cut it.

Harris, Marie Apr 6

4

I'm still confused on how moving the sentences around changed the flow when there were so many focuses in the paragraph.

Martinez, Logan 6 April 2018

4

I'm glad you're letting me revise my essay because my English teachers in high school never gave us a chance to improve our grade. I will take advantage.

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