

"If grading is so important to our work, whether we like it or not, why is the topic so avoided, so threatening, so intimidating?"

Joe Feldman, *Grading for Equity*

What is the Purpose of Grading?

According to Feldman, teachers use grading for many different purposes. Six of these purposes are summarized in the statements below. For each of the following statements, choose whether you strongly disagree, slightly disagree, slightly agree, or strongly agree with it. Then, rank the importance of each statement from 1-6 (1 being the most important and 6 being the least)

A. To communicate the achievement status of students to parents or guardians and others.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree Importance

B. To provide information that students can use for self-evaluation.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree Importance

C. To select, identify, or group students for certain educational paths or programs.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree Importance

D. To provide incentives for students to learn.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree Importance

E. To inform instructional decisions.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree Importance

F. To provide evidence of students' lack of effort or inappropriate responsibility.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree Importance

Reference:

Feldman, J. (2019). *Grading for equity: What it is, why it matters, and how it can transform schools and classrooms.* Corwin, a SAGE Company.