

Elements of Grading

A Guide to Effective Practice

By Douglas Reeves

Research has shown that the quality of feedback is one of the most important factors in improving student learning. *Elements of Grading* addresses problems with the primary source of feedback: grades.

Learn several strategies for reforming grading policy, while examining the common arguments against reform. With this practical guide, you can improve grading to meet four essential criteria—accuracy, fairness, specificity, timeliness—and also make the grading process quicker and more efficient. The book does not offer an ultimate answer or perfect system but shows how to begin a constructive, evidence-based conversation about improving grading systems. Dr. Reeves analyzes the main features of the grading systems many schools use today (such as the 100-point system and the policy of giving no points for missed work) and evaluates each of them by his four criteria. He challenges and inspires readers in this comprehensive reevaluation of what grades are, why we use them, and whom they benefit. Examples, case studies, and opportunities for reflection facilitate individual and schoolwide examination of grading policies.

Benefits

- Learn a rational process for evaluating grading systems at all levels, from classroom practices to national policies.
- Explore a collegial process for discussing some of the most contentious issues in grading.
- Discover a communicative process for bringing all stakeholders into the discussion.
- Get reproducible tools for self-reflection and improvement in grading.

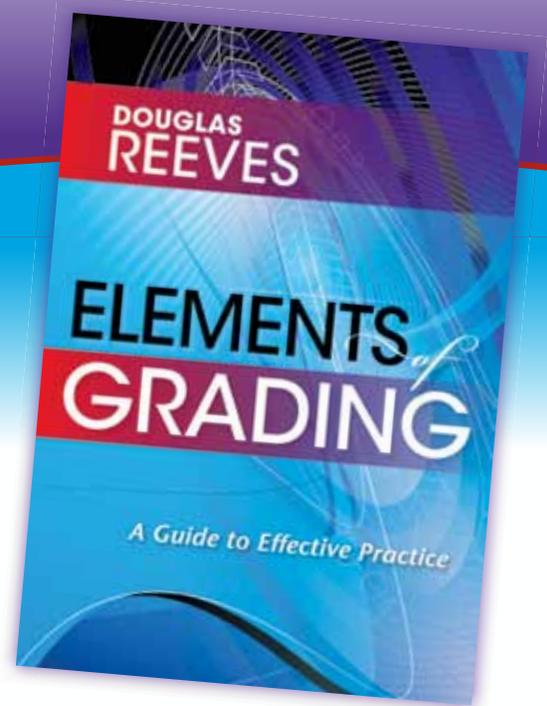
Chapters

- 1 Grading Is Feedback
- 2 The Grading Debate
- 3 How to Improve Accuracy in Grading
- 4 How to Improve Fairness in Grading
- 5 How to Improve Specificity in Grading
- 6 How to Improve Timeliness in Grading
- 7 Time-Saving Strategies for Busy Teachers
- 8 Leading Change for Effective Grading Practices

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“For most teachers, grading students is a gunky game—an enterprise ruled more by whim than by rigor. Yet, in this exciting new book, Doug Reeves shows educators how they can make grading accurate, fair, specific, and timely. If, as he contends, ‘grading is feedback,’ then the grade Reeves earns for this volume is a glistening A-plus!”

—James Popham, professor emeritus,
University of California, Los Angeles



Douglas Reeves, PhD, is founder of the Leadership and Learning Center. He is a frequent keynote speaker for education, business, nonprofit, and government organizations throughout the world. The author of more than 20 books and many articles on leadership and organizational effectiveness, he has twice been selected for the Harvard Distinguished Authors Series. He was named the 2006 Brock International Laureate for his contributions to education. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Parents Choice Award for his writing for children and parents. Dr. Reeves edited and contributed to the anthology *Ahead of the Curve* and contributed to the anthologies *On Common Ground*, *Change Wars*, and *21st Century Skills*.

