

Assessment Philosophy

In assessing my students, my main goal is to be fair.

As a teacher, I know school is difficult for students. I also acknowledge that the grade they receive from my class can hinder or help their future success, and so it's important that the grades reflect the best parts of their performance in school. It is difficult to get out into the world, and the educational system is built specifically to disable, harm, and destroy students who do not act in a specific way. Unfortunately that is a result of turning people into numbers with grades. The last thing I want is for my grade to be another obstacle in one of my students' livelihoods.

Fairness also covers the equity aspect. I want to hold students accountable for themselves and each other, which means everyone is graded by the same rubric. In order for that to be equitable, it is crucial that I build rubrics that accommodate for everyone as much as possible, and in the specific cases where it is not, then to provide scaffolding and support to individual students, whether that means more time, varied assessments, or discussions with the student to find where the motivation is. It's important to me that my students all are graded on the same scale as a teacher overseeing at least 100 students a day. I can only differentiate the lesson so much with the time I have, and so all of my students need to get the same information. I also need to be able to easily interpret and access my rubric, so that I may not make a mistake in grading. When all students are held to the same standards, they can check my own grading of course, but I'd also like to encourage them to check each other. One student who received a low grade can observe a classmate's work that had a higher grade, and ask for help and figure out why. Rubrics that I can understand quickly tend to also be easy enough for students to understand, and so can double as student-facing. When a student knows what they will be graded on, they can focus their efforts and attention towards those specific attributes. And everyone wins!