## Thomas Guskey's Effective Grading Conclusions

1. Grading and Reporting are NOT Essential to the Instructional Process

Quick Tips:

- use checklists for observation
- look at spelling errors outside of spelling class (social studies essay)
- not everything goes in the gradebook

2. No One Method of Grading and Reporting Serves All Purposes Well!

Quick Tips:

- Use narrative feedback
- Meet with students for conferencing

3. Grading and Reporting Will Always Involve Some Degree of Subjectivity!

Quick Tips:

- You're a professional be confident in your training

4. Mathematical Precision does NOT yield fairer or more objective grading!

Quick Tips:

- Consider a smaller scale of numbers
- Don't hide behind the math
- Don't let the numbers in your gradebook, overshadow your professional judgement

5. Grades have Some Value as Rewards, But NO Value as Punishments!

Quick Tips:

- Find ways to motivate low performers
- Low grades =my teacher hates me

6. Grade Distributions Reflect Both:
a. Students' Level of Performance
b. The Quality of the Teaching

Quick Tips:

- You own AT LEAST 51\% of what happens in your classroom, because you are a fully formed adult
- When you reflect on assessment in the context of your instruction, does the outcome match what you expect?

7. High Percentages are NOT the same as High Standards!

Quick Tips:

- Do students excel in your class, but not on standardized tests?

8. Report Cards are but One Way of Communicating with Parents!

Quick Tips:

- There are dozens of ways- if the report is the first communication of performance, you have missed opportunities

9. Grading and Reporting should Always be done in reference to Learning Criteria, Never "On the Curve" Quick Tips:

- Make sure you are not grading against highest performer in the class
- Don't be Mr. D .


## Guiding Questions

1. What are the major reasons we use report cards and assign grades to students' work?
2. Ideally, what purposes should report cards or grades serve?
3. What elements should teachers use in determining students' grades? (For example, major assessments, compositions, homework, attendance, class participation, etc.

## Six Purposes of Grading

1. Communicate the Achievement Status of Students to Their Parents and Others
2. Provide Information for Student Self-Evaluation
3. Select, Identify, or Group Students for Certain Educational Programs
4. Provide Incentives for Students to Learn
5. Document Students' Performance to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Instructional Programs
6. Provide Evidence of Students' Lack of Effort or Inappropriate Responsibility

