

Individual Exercise: Grade the Videotaped Lesson

Excerpted from *Change Leadership: A Practical Guide to Transforming Schools*, Chapter 2. Published by Jossey-Bass, 2005.

Step One: Observe the video (up to the place where the teacher says to the students, “Now go to it.”). Then, answer the following question:

If you had to grade the lesson (from F to A, with plusses and minuses allowed), what would that grade be?

Step Two: Having made your decision, now think about what criteria you used for the grading. This is “no fault” work—there are no right or wrong answers—you just need to examine what evidence led you to give the lesson the grade you did, whether high or low.

Step Three: Consider how those criteria might compare with those your colleagues might use. Or how those criteria might have changed for you over the years. If you can perform this exercise in a group setting, or even with one trusted colleague, the range of responses you will find may surprise you.