

1067-I1-2419

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955 La Paz Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. *Grading Without Numbers.*

Students often expect grading scales on a mathematics test to conform to the standard 90/80/70/60 cut-offs. It is not uncommon in certain courses, however, for something like 50/100 to equate with a B. When papers with such marks on them are returned to the students there are a variety of reactions. Many simply file the paper away in embarrassment and never look at extensive comments that their instructor put on the exam. This presentation describes an experiment where papers are returned with only written comments: no numerical markings or grade indications at all. Students are then asked to evaluate the comments and their performance in later consultations with the instructor.

This paper describes the details of this approach, the reactions from students, and plans for future efforts to grade without numbers. (Received September 23, 2010)