The Disadvantages of School without Grades

The pressure to toil for better grades can be overwhelming for some students. Similarly, the displeasure of a poor grade can be distressing. In a bid to address this challenge, some institutions--at secondary and collegiate levels--have introduced fail/pass grading systems while others have eliminated the grades. While the latter option may give students liberty to center on learning rather than grades, it may also have serious drawbacks.

Intellectual Laziness

Though regarded as stressful, grades offer an incentive for students to work harder, explains Kellogg Insight in the surprising importance of grades (see reference 1). If you are graded on a pass/fail system, you will most likely have less motivation to perform well--if you get a "D", you will know that you need to work harder while if you get an "A", you will know that your approach is working. When graded on completion--pass/fail system--you might slacken your efforts in studies hence poor work performance in later days.

Competition

A no-grade approach in schools deprives you of the competitive sprit, argues the University of Massachusetts Lowell (see reference2). Grading system differentiates the winners from the other students hence making the others work harder. When deprived of competitiveness in school, it is more likely that you will not develop it in the workplace. This will in turn make you less competitive in the job market--where competition is stiff (see reference 2).

Educationally Unprepared

The no-grade system may produce students who are not educationally prepared for higher learning, according to The Stanford Daily (see reference 3).grades will give you your current performance and insight as to whether the study habits you are using are appropriate. For you to get to universities and colleges, you have to take certain scored SATs. If you attended school with no grading system, you may not be adequately prepared for this and may not be accepted in institutions of higher learning.

Demeaning to the Students

The system of no grades in schools may as well impact on the self esteem of the student; reports the American Medical Association (see reference 4). If you attend a school without a grading system, you might experience lack of self-assurance--due to lack of quantitative grading (see reference 2). Therefore, the concept of no grades can be demeaning, even condescending to you--the student.

REFERENCES

1. [Kellogg Insight: The Surprising Importance of Grades](http://insight.kellogg.northwestern.edu/article/the_surprising_importance_of_grades/)
2. [University of Massachusetts Lowell: Making the Grade](http://www.cs.uml.edu/%7Eheines/academic/wiesenfeld.html)
3. [The Stanford Daily: Adventures in Academia -- Benefits of Grading?](http://www.stanforddaily.com/2010/03/04/adventures-in-academia-benefits-of-grading/)
4. [American Medical Association: Can a Pass/Fail Grading System Adequately Reflect Student Progress?](http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/2009/11/ccas2-0911.html)