

Figure VC4.1 Video Case 4—History Department Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 14

- I. Announcements and Introductions
- II. Grading Exercise in Groups
- III. Whole-Group Debrief
- IV. Feedback and Next Steps

Grading Exercise Procedure

1. Read all the essays quickly. For each essay, decide whether it succeeds or not. Jot down a quick score.
2. Quick conversation: each participant says how she or he scored each essay. Observational comments only (e.g., “I notice that . . .”).
3. Read the first two essays again, and grade and comment on them as if you were about to return them to students. For the purpose of this exercise, these are final drafts.
4. Grading debrief: discuss each essay in turn. The guiding questions are:
 - What grade do you think this essay deserves?
 - Why?

Notes on Conversation

The goal of our conversation today is *not* to persuade or justify. The goal is to achieve clarity, individually and collectively, on the criteria we use to evaluate student writing. Disagreement is healthy, consensus divine.

The rules of the conversation are simple: everybody is responsible for getting everyone involved; assume good intentions; aim for clarity and understanding.