A grade is really just an arbitrary number. The reason we give grades is because that is what colleges and universities want. They allow us to award prizes and scholarships, allow or deny entry to a program, etc. Society likes marks and competition.

Grades are necessary, however not every assignment needs a grade. Once a grade is given, the learning stops – no feedback is listened to or followed. More beneficial to students than giving them a mark is giving them specific, descriptive feedback on a series of formative assessments throughout the course. Doing this, the students are able to practice the skills they are expected to learn in our course, and we are able continuously let them know what they are doing well and what they still need to work on. This allows for more learning and growth. Through practice, students can improve their skills and knowledge

A limitation to not grading an assignment is the possibility that students will not take an ungraded assignment seriously and not complete it. They may think that since it will not affect their final grade, then what is the point in putting the effort in doing it? There is a whole culture shift in the classroom to get students to understand that everything they do has an impact on their final course grade, regardless of whether it’s being graded or not. We need to create a classroom where students understand that it is not about who gets the highest marks - it is about everyone achieving success.