

# Attendance and Achievement: Dwayne

## Lesson Title: Teacher Report Card

### Grade Level: High School



#### Essential Question:

How will grading your teacher motivate you to improve academically?

#### Notes:

- Teachers should keep an open mind when asking for student opinions; be prepared for almost anything, and — most importantly — be sincere in your seeking their assessment. Consider making this an ongoing practice to build relationships with students and improve your craft.
- This lesson needs two or more sessions.

#### Materials

- Board/Visible area to collect notes
- Paper and writing tools or computer writing program

#### Procedure:

1. Begin the session by discussing report cards. What do they tell you? How are they created? Why are they important? What do they measure? What don't they measure?
2. Ask students to think about the power of a report card. What is the power of a report card? What can a report card change?
3. Tell students about your experience calculating and recording grades at report card time and the process you use to assign grades they have earned.
4. If your school uses a comment section on report cards or progress reports, discuss how you go about selecting or creating comments for each student. What do you hope each comment does for each student?
5. Tell students that when you create report card grades, you not only consider how the grade will reflect their academic accomplishments but also their efforts and energies. Grades are not only meant to tell something about the past, but they are supposed to inform how students can set goals, improve, and learn more.

6. Tell students they are going to have a chance to create a teacher report card because you value their input and want to improve your teaching. There are sites such as “RateMyTeacher,” but you are looking for their original ideas for assessing your teaching. Remind them that you are looking for constructive criticism, not insults. How does constructive criticism help motivate a person to improve? What do insults do?
7. Have students form small groups of three or four students and have each group create a list of criteria that could be used to rate your teaching. Suggestions might include:
  - Knowledge of subject
  - Delivery of material
  - Kinds of questions asked
  - The way questions are asked
  - Makes subject interesting
  - Fairness
  - Manages classroom behaviors fairly
  - Patience with students
  - Passion for teaching
  - Cares about students
  - Sets expectations fairly and clearly
  - Gives directions clearly
8. When groups are ready, gather back as a class and collect their ideas on the board.
9. Work as a class to determine a top ten list of criteria that will be used to rate teaching.
10. Ask students how they will give grades. Will this be a pass/fail report card? If it is a letter grade report card, how will they determine what scores an A and what scores a failing grade?
11. How can comments be included on the report card? Would they prefer a selection of comments from which to choose, or would they prefer to create their own comments?
12. When the final product is approved by the class, explain that you will create a report card that everyone can complete for you. For those schools that have access, consider using an electronic means to distribute and collect the report cards; however, paper report cards are equally valuable.
13. Remind students that you seek constructive ways to improve your teaching. Prepare yourself to be humbled.
14. After you have collected and reviewed the report cards, sincerely thank students for their input. Consider doing any/all of the following:
  - Share the general results of the report card
  - Post the top comments and/or your grade average
  - State an improvement goal based on their input
  - Conference with individual students to seek clarity and/or make a personal commitment to their suggestions
  - Ask for student suggestions for improvement

## Conclusion

Review the purpose of the lesson. Ask students how this exercise will not only motivate you to improve your teaching, but also how it will motivate them to improve academically.