

**Making the Grades**  
Lee Binz  
The HomeScholar  
www.TheHomeScholar.com  
"Helping parents homeschool high school"

## **EVALUATING and TESTING**

Evaluating without tests: include what they do, what they know, and what they produce

- 1) What they do
- 2) What they know
- 3) What they produce

Examples: responsibility, participation in class activities, homework assignments, presentations, reports, quizzes, unit tests, oral presentations, discussion.

What do they do that you call school? What percent are you happy or pleased?

Annoyance and nagging give clues about what we evaluate.

Evaluating with tests: mastery is different than perfection.

Never give a transcript grade based solely on a test

Assignment grade is different than a class grade

Evaluating with tests, less than 50% standardized tests, or curriculum tests

Fill-in-the-bubble tests are part of life and college

## **TRANSCRIPT GRADES**

A or 4.0 = Mastery, meets high expectations, high test scores, child loves the subject

B or 3.0 = Pretty Good, but not worth an A, probably better than public school

C or 3.0 = Not very good at all, but kept going to the next level

Mastery does not mean perfection.

## **GRADING CRITERIA for DAILY WORK**

Ratio of annoyance: not annoyed 100%, feeling picky 95%, good but expected more 90%, not very good, glad I'm homeschooling so I can correct it, but I'm not happy = 80%

Factor of confidence: meets high expectations = A, good but not great B, bad but moved on= C

Providing instruction: circle errors, comment with suggestions, correction allowed before grading

## **EXAMPLES OF GRADING CRITERIA**

English example of grading without tests

Research & Reading		Mechanics		Composition & Analysis	
-----1/3 grade-----		-----1/3 grade-----		-----1/3 grade-----	
Research	100%	Vocabulary	100%	Quick Essays	100%
Reading	100%	Comprehension	100%	Literature Analysis	100%

Math example of grading with tests

Tests		Daily Work		Midterm and Final	
-----1/3 grade-----		-----1/3 grade-----		-----1/3 grade-----	
Chapter 1	89%	Chapter 1	100%	Midterm 1	91%
Chapter 2	82%	Chapter 2	100%	Midterm 2	83%
Chapter 3	94%	Chapter 3	100%	Final	85%

## GRADING SCALE OPTIONS

Example 1: 93-100% = A+, 93-100% = A, 90-92% = A-, 87-89% = B+, 83-86% = B, 80-82% = B-, 77-79% = C+, 73-76% = C, 70-72% = C-, 67-69% = D+, 63-66% = D, 60-62% = D-, <60% = F.

Example 2: A=4.0, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0

Example 3: 93-100% = A, 85-92% = B, 75-84% = C, 70-74% = D, Below 70% = F

Example 4: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, Below 60% = F

## GRADING ON THE TRANSCRIPT

### Weighting Grades

Not recommended, optional unless requested by your favorite college

Option A) Adjust credit value; add 1.0 to class credit

Option B) Adjust grade value; add 1.0 to final grade

### How to Calculate GPA

1. Multiply: Class grade x class credit = grade point for that class
2. Add: Add all the grade points
3. Divide: Take the total grade points and divide by number of credits
4. Answer: grade point average

## ARTICLES

[Quick grading estimate](#)

[How to Find God's Grading Scale](#)

[Why I Do Not Recommend Weighting Grades](#)

[Calculating Grade Point Average – a Very Brief Review](#)

[High School English: A "Grouch Free" Guide to Grading](#)

[Use Your Annoy-O-Meter Skillfully,](#)

## MEMBER RESOURCES

[GPA conversion chart](#)

This guide will give you ideas about how to evaluate and grade, even "difficult" subjects.

[Sample Grading Criteria \(PDF\)](#)

## REFERENCE BOOKS

Book: “[Setting the Records Straight: How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts and Course Descriptions](#)”

Kindle Book: [Making the Grades: A Grouch-Free Guide to Homeschool Grading](#) Coffee Break Book