

"How Could You Give Me Such a Low Grade!?"

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Apprehensive?



• ... expecting anger from students?





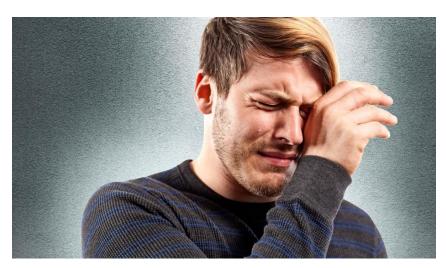
...or pouty-faced students

 demanding that you explain how you could possibly ever give them such a low score





...or, out and out tears





...or appeals to higher authorities





...or contact from a hover parent



"Children today grow up believing it's their effort that matters. Everyone gets a trophy, and everyone deserves to be praised just for showing up. As one author put it: "Parents have moved from feeling they should give their children everything they need, to giving them everything they want."

Source: https://chroniclevitae.com/news/908-dear-student-no-i-won-t-change-the-grade-you-deserve#sthash.weydDl3F.dpuf

But you realize this!

- Created grading rubrics ...
- Shared papers from past classes...
- Provided pre-exam reviews ...

Yet, still...

• ...WE are the "bad guys" who took away their deserved grades ...we are the one on trial...



A simple solution?

- When I've used this over the last 34 years:
 - I practically NEVER get those responses
 - Plus, it has other benefits

I add this to their paper/exam/project

- "I'm very disappointed in this performance, John.
 You are capable of much more than this."
- "You know I've done everything I can do to help you succeed in this class. This effort shows a lack of respect for me and all I've done."
- If it's a very low grade, I add, "We need to talk. Soon."

We have good conversations

- Students admit all kinds of things to me
- I'm addicted to Oxycodone.
- I'm being sued.
- I've just lost my father.
- I just didn't study.
- To be honest, I waited to the last minute to do it.
- I didn't think it would be that hard.
- I've been spending all of my time on this other course that I thought was important to my career.

Results

- Allows me to help the student find help
- Students improve study habits and teamwork skills
- We talk through how to manage college, and life!