

No more Zeroes - dismantling a harmful grading practice

David Hairston (with the support and encouragement from many others)

February 26, 2022

"No more zeroes" makes the case for dismantling the practice of allowing 0's (and in general scores below 50%) in a gradebook where the grading scale goes from 50% E to 100% A.

This Google doc contains links (on page 2, below) to:

- 1. The original (Macintosh) Keynote slideshow**
- 2. A 14 minute movie made from the Keynote slideshow for general viewing**
- 3. A 7 minute "essential facts" movie made from the Keynote slideshow**
- 4. The justGrade app for translating raw scores into useful scaled scores**
- 5. A resource app comparing the effects of "direct grades" and justGrade**
- 6. Various resources cited in the making of the original Keynote slideshow**

If you have a Macintosh, download the Keynote slideshow and click through it. Otherwise, watch the 14 minute movie made from the Keynote slideshow.

The 7 minute movie captures the essential argument for dismantling 0% grades.

The justGrade app is an online resource that takes raw scores (i.e. 3 out of 10) and correctly translates them into scaled scores (i.e. 65%) that are appropriate for gradebooks that assign grades from 50% E to 100% A.

The "No more arrows" PDF is a quick comparison of the harm resulting from "raw scores" entered directly in a gradebook vs. the more nurturing practice of using justGrade "scaled scores" in a gradebook.

"No more zeroes" is another online resource app that allows an interactive comparison and provides a mathematical insight into three practices for entering grades.

The Pittsburgh Public Schools grading policy states that grades are evaluated from 50% E to 100% A. However, a subsequent policy allows the use of 0%'s when students "do no work". This opens the door for the misconception that 50% means that a student is getting something for nothing. This is, at best, a misunderstanding of the mathematics behind 50% grading and needs changed!

The following are links to resources in Google Drive or other online resources

1. [The original Keynote slideshow "No more zeroes"](#)
2. [The 14 minute movie made from the Keynote slideshow for general viewing](#)
3. [The 7 minute "essential facts" movie made from the Keynote slideshow](#)
4. [The "justGrade" online app for translating grades](#). Try it!
5. [The "No more arrows" PDF](#). A grading policy comparison flyer.
6. [The "No more zeroes" online app for comparing three grading policies](#)
7. [The Pittsburgh Public Schools Grading guidelines](#), (pghschools.org)
8. ["The Case Against Zeros in Grading"](#), -Alexis Tamony (edutopia.org)
9. ["Controversial 'No Zero' Grading Policy"](#), -Tim Walker (nea.org)
10. ["Is the United States a racist country?"](#), -Rashawn Ray (brookings.edu)
11. ["Implicit or Unconscious Bias"](#), -Charlotte Ruhl (simplypsychology.org)