

10 Ways to Go Gradeless: Unleashing the Transformative Power of Learning



Hacking Assessment: 10 Ways to Go Gradeless in a Traditional Grades School (Hack Learning Series)

by Starr Sackstein

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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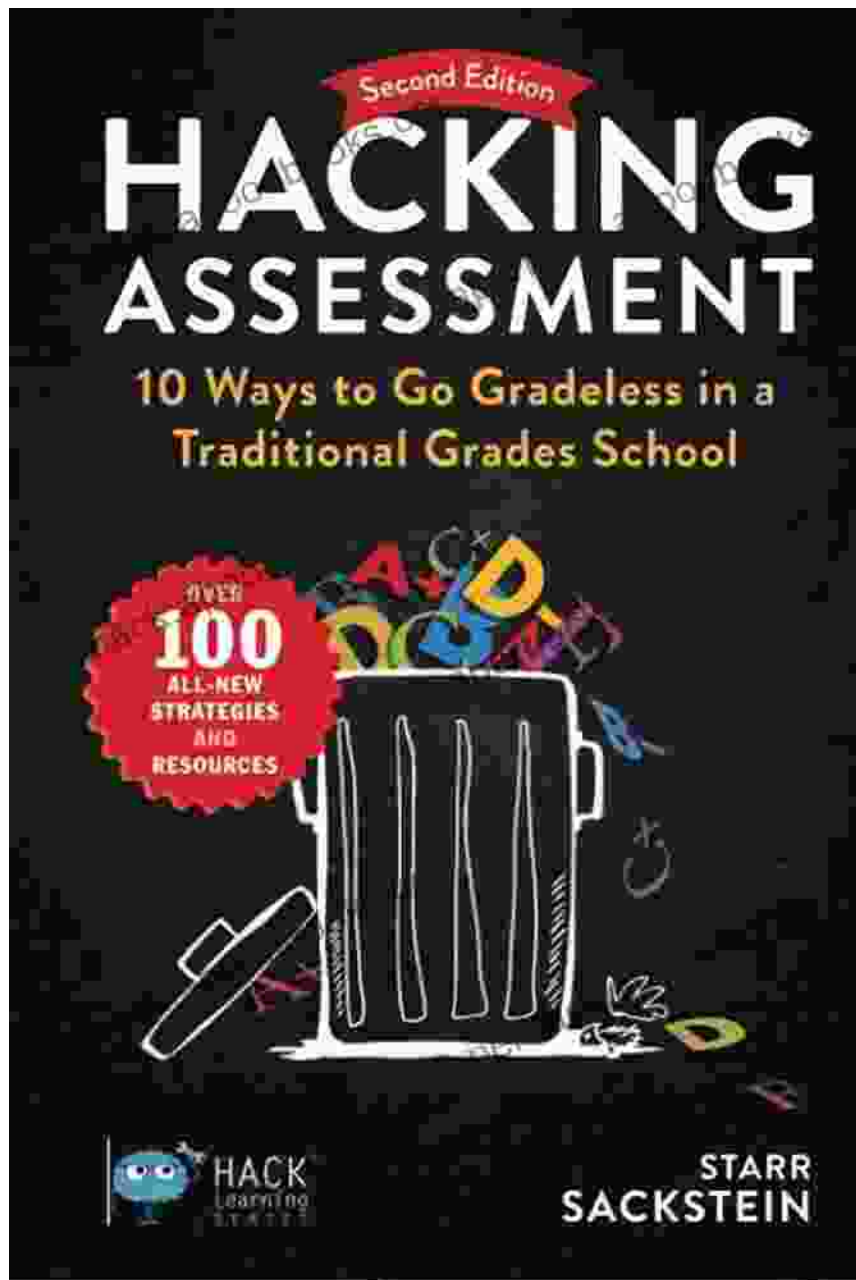
In the ever-evolving landscape of education, there is a growing movement towards abolishing traditional grading practices. The reasons for this shift are compelling: grades have been shown to stifle motivation, foster competition instead of collaboration, and fail to accurately measure student learning.

In response to these concerns, educators are exploring alternative assessment strategies that empower students, promote collaboration, and cultivate a growth mindset. These strategies are collectively known as "gradeless" learning, and they offer a wealth of benefits over traditional grading.

10 Ways to Go Gradeless

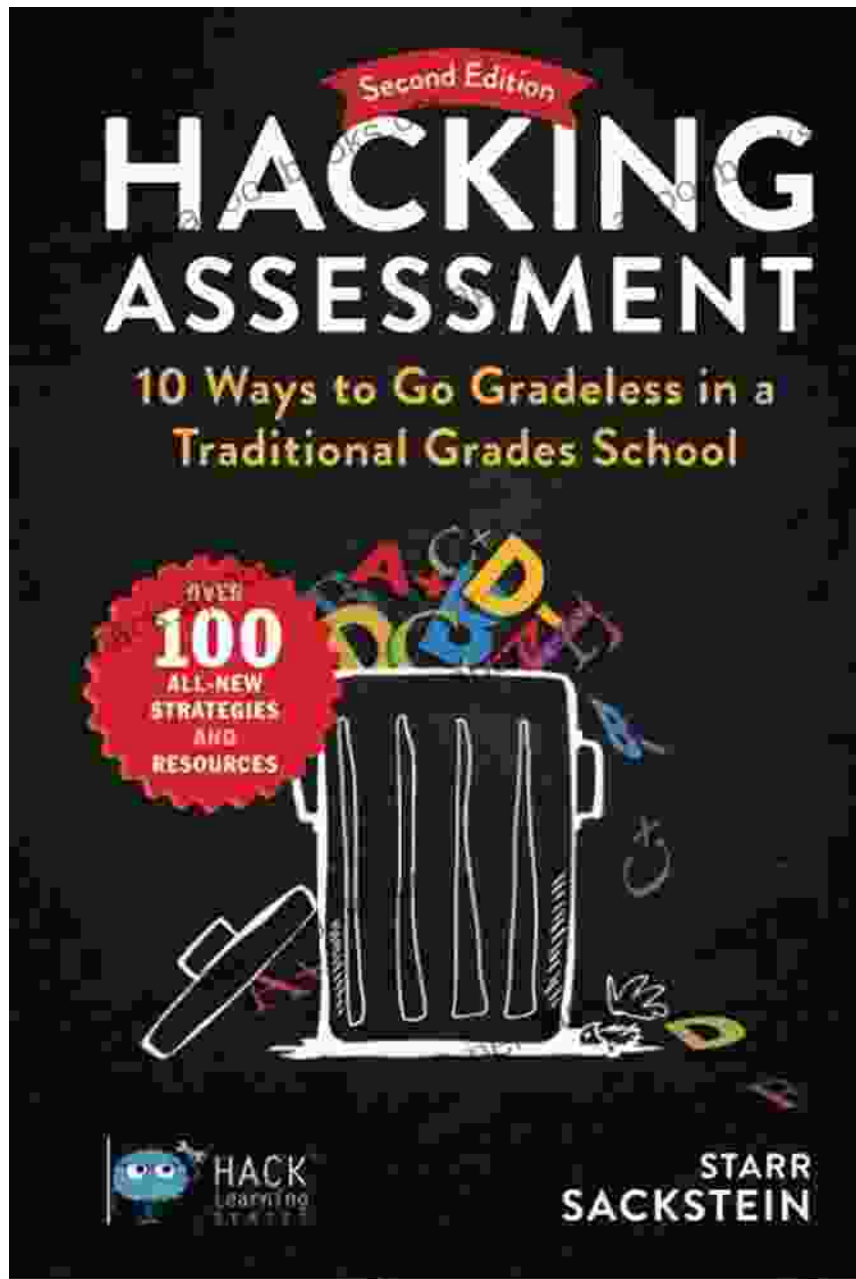
1. Eliminate letter grades

The first and most fundamental step towards going gradeless is to eliminate letter grades. This means removing them from all assignments, assessments, and report cards.



2. Focus on feedback

Instead of assigning grades, provide students with detailed, specific feedback on their work. This feedback should be timely, actionable, and focused on helping students improve their learning.



3. Use rubrics

Rubrics are a great way to provide students with clear expectations for their work. They can also be used to assess student learning in a fair

and consistent manner.

Final Project: ASSESSMENT RUBRIC Community Presentation on Climate Change

Rubric Criteria	1- Not Yet Meeting Expectations	2- Approaching Expectations	3- Fully Meeting Expectations	4- Exceeding Expectations
Organization	Audience has trouble understanding presentation, poor organization	Audience has trouble following presentation, disorganized slides/notes	Audience follows information presented in a logical order	Audience can easily follow information presented in an interesting and logical order
Subject Knowledge/Questions	Students do not appear to understand subject, can't answer questions	Students have limited understanding of the subject, and have difficulty answering questions	Students are at ease and answer most questions with explanations and some elaboration	Students demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and answer all questions with explanations and elaboration
Media and Technology Support	Students have difficulty with technology, does not really support presentation / not engaging	Technology is used, and supports presentation generally; engages viewers	Technology supports presentation and well used; good balance of visuals, audio and text to enhance ideas	Technology is well integrated, competently used, and excellent selection of audio, visual and textual resources enhances information
Presentation Style	Students lack confidence, do not speak clearly, and not engaged with audience	Students' voices are low and unclear; difficult to keep engagement with audience	Students are confident, speak well and are engaged with their audience	Students present with easy confidence, speak very well and clearly, maintain excellent engagement
Research/Complete coverage & conclusions with justifications	Students do not present a comprehensive view of the topic, and do not present a clear conclusion	Students have some view of the topic and recommendations, but not well supported or argued for	Students provide good overview of the topic, and support their recommendations with good reasons and evidence	Students present a comprehensive view of the topic, compelling recommendations with excellent justifications and evidence

4. Implement student self-assessment

Empower students to take ownership of their learning by having them self-assess their work. This can help them develop metacognitive skills and learn to identify areas where they need to improve.



5. **Utilize peer assessment**

Peer assessment is a great way for students to learn from each other and develop critical thinking skills. It can also help to create a more collaborative and supportive learning environment.



Explain different types of peer assessment

Two Stars and a Wish

Name _____

★

★

✍️

Use two stars and a wish to tell me two things you like and one thing that could be improved

Two Stars and a Wish

Encourages students to highlight positives and also set targets for improvement

Effective Peer Assessment

6. Create portfolios

Portfolios are a collection of student work that showcases their learning over time. They can be used to assess student progress and identify areas where they need to improve.



7. Use exit tickets

Exit tickets are a quick and easy way to assess student understanding at the end of a lesson. They can be used to identify students who need additional support and to adjust instruction accordingly.



8. Conduct student-led conferences

Student-led conferences give students an opportunity to share their work with their parents and teachers. This can help students to develop their communication and presentation skills and to reflect



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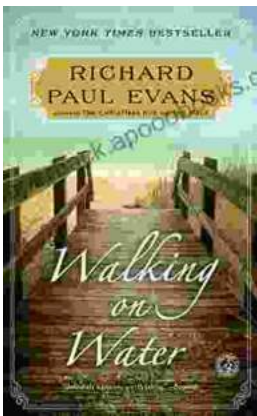
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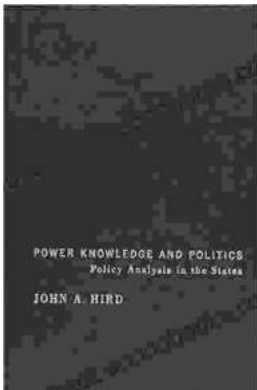
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