



## Conquering SBG



Please take the time to read through the follow explanation carefully. Please contact me with any questions about how this system works. Thank you! – Mr. Ackerman

### Skills Based Grading (SBG)

Traditional grading usually focuses on tasks. Teachers give a student an essay on Dr. Seuss; the student does a fine job, but has some misspelled words and grammar errors, and so ends up with a 7/10 in the grade book. Overall, this gives the teacher, parent, and the student a clue that they can improve on writing essays, but knowing which specific skill needs improvement comes down to reading comments and interpreting editing marks.

In SBG, the same assignment is given with several rubrics that give details on specific skills being tested (Skills are scored on a scale from four to one. 4 = Advanced, 1 = Emerging). No longer will “Dr. Seuss Essay” be in the grade book with a possible 10 points. Instead, the grades in the grade book *might* be “Ideas” and “Conventions.”

The same student who received a 7/10 may receive a 3/4 in “Ideas” and a 1/4 in “Conventions.” Now, without reading any comments, the teacher, parent, and student can tell that the ideas expressed were on target, but also that writing conventions must improve. Students can now study resources from past lessons and ask specific questions about that skill in order to improve.

Throughout a unit, students will interact in lessons and perform activities that "Formatively" assess the skills specific to that unit. These grades will *not* count towards the final grade, but will provide feedback for improvement. At the end of the unit, a final "Summative" assessment will test those same skills. These grades *will* count towards the final grade. If a student is not happy with a score, opportunities for retakes are allowed, so long as the student has completed every Formative assessment for that unit.

*There will be two Summative Assessments per trimester. One will occur near the middle and the other near the end, with some time left over for retakes.*

Students may retake summative assessments throughout a trimester. At teacher's discretion, the retake may vary in task, text, and questions, but the skill will be the same. In order to retake an assessment, students must complete every Formative assessment as well as a "Retake Ticket" to ensure that they are in the best position to succeed.

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My goal is to reflect every student’s ability in Language Arts, not necessarily their ability to “play school.” I appreciate giving 100% effort, but grades will solely reflect the students ability in the subject.

Grades will not be determined by percentages. Instead, the letter grade will come from where the average score of all of the skills fits on a district agreed upon GPA scale. For example, if a student has the following scores: 1.5, 4.0, 4.0, 3.5, 2.5 (3.1 average), his or her grade would be a ‘B+,’ according to the chart provided.

Average of all Learning Target scores on summative assessments	Letter Grade
3.64.0	A
3.3-3.59	A-
3.3-29	B+
2.7-2.99	B
2.4-2.69	B-
2.1-2.39	C+
1.8-2.09	C
1.5-1.79	C-
0-1.49	F

Work Ethic

Work ethic is an important part of school, jobs, and life in general. In the future, my students will be required to meet deadlines, interact with colleagues and customers, and be responsible. They will be expected to do the same in my class; therefore, students will be held accountable to these expectations.

Work ethic is its own skill, but it will not count towards the letter grade. Instead, it will be used to determine the student’s citizenship (Outstanding = 4, Satisfactory = 3, Needs Improvement = 2, Unsatisfactory = 1). Work ethic is tied to showing up on time and prepared, participating in class, turning in work on time, and following class rules. We will determine the score together periodically throughout each Trimester. Citizenship is used to determine eligibility for athletics and school activities.

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand my grading system. Please continue to check my website [www.ackermansenglish.weebly.com](http://www.ackermansenglish.weebly.com) for more information, assignments, and other information about my class. Also, if you have any school related questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at [dackerman@armadaschools.org](mailto:dackerman@armadaschools.org).

Sincerely,

Mr. Ackerman

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Parent/Guardian Printed Name:

X \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:

X \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name:

X \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:

X \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature indicates that you have read the class Syllabus and "Conquering SBG" letter.**