
Student Centered to Skill Based

“Skills are just as important as content”

WRITING LAB: GROUP FOLDERS

In my classroom students sit in tables of 4 to 6. Each table has a folder with student names. This is how I collect and pass back papers. I reward students for following directions by adding stickers next to their name. Directions can be simply “highlight your final answers on the quiz yellow,” or “underline the source of each document.” By rewarding the simple skill of following directions, we can help students elevate their responses on the AP exam. This is a little skill that makes a BIG difference! NOTE: Some students do not respond to this, but the vast majority want to see their folder covered with stickers, and they count them and compete. This requires them to follow directions!



Rationale for Essay Folders – In my classroom each student has an essay folder [that stays in the classroom] and houses all essays written during the year. On the cover are rubrics which record topics, skills, and rubrics. Each time a student earns at least 4 points on an essay, they receive a sticker. When we debrief and rewrite essays, they can also focus on skills they struggle with. Student response to this strategy has been positive, because they not only like stickers/praise... they appreciate the fact that they don't have to be perfect to earn a good grade as well as being celebrated for the journey of learning. You can cut and past the rubrics to the front cover of the folders (or have students do so). Then, as you grade record what points they earn on these rubrics. This provides progress tracking over time. On the image, the DBQ rubrics overlap, so the first two are essentially a flap over the second two.

