

Labor-Based Grading Contracts: Building Equity and Inclusion in the Compassionate Writing Classroom

By Asao B. Inoue

Copy edited by Don Donahue. Designed by Mike Palmquist.

In *Labor-Based Grading Contracts*, Asao B. Inoue argues for the use of labor-based grading contracts along with compassionate practices to determine course grades as a way to do social justice work with students. He frames this practice by considering how Freirean problem-posing led him to experiment with grading contracts and explore the literature on grading contracts. Inoue offers a robust Marxian theory of labor that considers Hannah Arendt's theory of labor-work-action and Barbara Adam's concept of "timescapes." The heart of the book details the theoretical and practical ways labor-based grading contracts can be used and assessed for effectiveness in classrooms and programs. Inoue concludes the book by moving outside the classroom, considering how assessing writing in the socially just ways he offers in the book may provide a way to address the violence and discord seen in the world today.

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About the Author

Asao B. Inoue is Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Director of University Writing and the Writing Center, a past member of the Executive Board of Council of Writing Program Administrators and the 2019 Chair of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Among his articles and chapters on writing assessment and race, his article, "Theorizing Failure in U.S. Writing Assessments" in *Research in the Teaching of English*, won the 2014 CWPA Outstanding Scholarship Award. His co-edited collection, *Race and Writing Assessment* (2012), won the 2014 CCCC Outstanding Book Award. His book, *Antiracist Writing Assessment Ecologies: Teaching and Assessing for a Socially Just Future* (WAC Clearinghouse/Parlor Press, 2015) won the 2017 CCCC Outstanding Book Award for a monograph and the 2015 CWPA Outstanding Book Award. In November 2016, he co-edited a special issue of *College English* on writing assessment as social justice.

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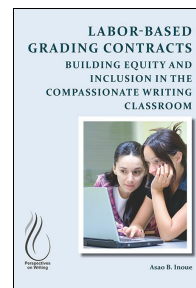
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