TED Talk Reflection

The topic of removing grades from schools is one that we have talked about a lot in our class and something I have become very interested in. Through the readings in class and other articles I have read subsequently, I have found that there are many staunch supporters for both sides of the topic. This was also clear in our group discussion of my Ted Talk in class. Some were in favor of grades because it was something they were comfortable with and it gave them a summative affirmation of their achievements. They didn't know, however, how they might have felt if they were average or lower performing students based on the grading system.

We discussed the steps needed to implement a grade-less system including ePortfolios. This brought up more defense than acceptance. The problem brought up was that some people do not have access to the Internet or devices. Others are firmly against having any of their child's information online or in digital form. We discussed ways around this such as a physical portfolio for those who opt to not take part in the ePortfolio system, or access to the ePortfolio through school computers as necessary.

All members of my Ted Talk group were happy with my video and said that it stimulated their interest in grading practices. I wish we had had more time to discuss the issue, but to fully investigate it would likely take hours.

It is important for teachers to sit down and have these kinds of conversations, but not always easy to coordinate. Creating short videos like this is a great way to help fellow teachers reflect on their practices and provide each other with feedback on their own time.