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Title

In high school I participated in the IB programme. IB stands for International Baccalaureate. This is a college readiness program. Being in this program required me to take college level classes in high school. My junior and senior years of my high school career I took IB Higher Level Biology I and II. This class required me to write multiple lab and research papers that I had to plan. The assessment and grading of the papers was different than any other grading technique I had seen before.

For my biology class, I had to design a lab experiment and write up a full lab report once the experiment was complete. The report included an explore section, procedure section, analysis section, explanation section, and evaluation section. In order to complete the assignment, I had to research the topic of my lab and find out what other scientists have said about this in particular topic. I also had to research other experiments that were similar to mine and compare and contrast our data and procedures.

These papers were fact based. The teacher did not require me to put any of my thoughts and opinions into the paper. In fact, if I added my opinion, she would deduct points from our final grade. This was one of the reasons I always did extremely well on these assignments. I did not have to “fluff up” my paper. All I had to do was write the statistics. I also had to do about two of these papers a month so the practice of having to do these so frequently was also a contributing factor to my good grade on these papers.

My grade on the papers was also increased due to the way the teacher would grade them. Of course, she made sure that all of the essential elements such as the correct sections, proper information, and proper citations were included. Furthermore, she made sure the work was not plagiarized. She also added a curve on the grades. She would grade all of the papers and whatever the highest grade was in the class she would make that the new 100% and adjust everybody’s grade based on that.

The IB programme helped to familiarize me with lab and research papers. My biology class required me to write an abundance of these types of papers in order to prepare me for college. The way in which my teacher chose to grade was not as helpful in the long run. So far in my college career I haven’t heard of professors curving grades. That was an expectation I had that is not a reality.