

Moderated Grading

Reading Academies participants complete several required artifacts to demonstrate their learning. Moderated grading is applied to two artifacts for each participant to mitigate biases in grading. Each Reading Academies cohort is paired with two additional cohorts for moderated grading.

How It Works

- Participants’ names are hidden from graders to maintain anonymity. Since graders cannot identify specific students, this ensures they assess the artifacts objectively instead of based on past experiences.
- Multiple graders review each artifact and submit suggested grades. Then the cohort leader serves as moderator, reviewing the feedback before determining the final grade. This helps to ensure consistent grading across the state of Texas.

Cohort Leader Grading Responsibilities

During the moderated grading process, a cohort leader serves two distinct roles:

- **Anonymous grader:** The responsibility is to grade artifacts for other assigned cohorts.
- **Cohort leader:** The responsibility is to moderate artifact submissions and assign a final grade.

Each cohort leader grades artifacts for their own cohort(s) plus two to six other paired cohorts. The total number of artifacts each cohort leader is responsible for grading is determined by the total number of participants in the cohorts they are assigned. Grading typically takes five to ten minutes per artifact, depending on the artifact type.

A **comprehensive coach** only leads one cohort with 60 participants and may be paired with two additional moderated grading cohorts. A **blended facilitator** may lead up to three cohorts with 100 participants each and may be paired with up to six additional moderated grading cohorts (up to 100 participants each).

Comprehensive Coach

Leads 1 cohort



60

Grades up to 2 additional cohorts



60



60

Artifacts to grade: 180 maximum (up to 60 for their own cohort plus two other cohorts)

Blended Facilitator

Leads up to 3 cohorts



100



100



100

Grades up to 6 additional cohorts



100



100



100



100



100



100

Artifacts to grade: 300 to 900 (if leading the maximum of three cohorts and grading six other cohorts)



The Grading Cycle

During the full eleven months of Reading Academies, each participant submits two artifacts (one due around month five and another around month ten).

This grading cycle repeats for each artifact. It can take up to 35 days to complete a full grading cycle.

1. Participants submit optional artifact drafts to their assigned cohort leader.
2. Cohort leader reviews optional drafts and gives participants individualized feedback.
3. Participants submit artifacts for moderated grading.
4. Moderated grading begins.
 - Cohort leader serves as an anonymous grader for (two to six) other cohorts.
 - Each artifact is reviewed by two anonymous graders and receives a pass or fail grade.
5. Anonymous graders return grades to the cohort leader.
 - If both anonymous graders gave the same grade (pass or fail), the cohort leader does not need to review the artifact again.
 - If the two moderated graders did not agree on the grade (one pass, one fail), the cohort leader reviews the artifact again and determines the final grade to break the tie.
6. Cohort leader posts the grades. (Post the lower grade and rubric for passing artifacts; post the higher grade and rubric for failing artifacts.)
7. Cohort leader meets with any participant in their cohort with a failing artifact (within seven days after posting the grade).
8. Participant resubmits the artifact (within fourteen days after meeting with the cohort leader).
9. Cohort leader re-grades the artifact (resubmitted artifacts do not undergo moderated grading) and posts the new grade.



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