

Although I am literally bombarded with work, I feel that today's teachers need their stories to be heard:

I completely agree that a FAIR evaluation system is needed and is vital to the delivery of quality education to our children. However, the current system is of little value and is creating infinitely more harm than good. I am the Head Building Rep in our Intermediate school. I have heard multiple stories of people spending anywhere between 6-19 hours developing a lesson for observation and filling out a ridiculously long and tedious four page template, in which it states at the very beginning, that the form is not recommended for daily instruction planning. If I am not observed on my "authentic" teaching, then what is the point of my filling it out? The time and energy required to generate a lesson, along with all the required data, documentation and materials is negatively impacting the time and energy that we should be devoting to our students. March is an extremely hectic, stressful time in our building. We are working on report cards, preparing for Parent Conferences, playing "Catch-Up" from snow days with the NEW CCSS and attempting to prepare our classes for SBAC, although according to our Administration, SBAC is, at this time, not yet fully completed!!! In our regularly scheduled union meeting with our administrators, they, too, are feeling the strain of multiple evaluations in trying to meet all of their obligations. Most are days, some even weeks late in getting evaluation feedback to the staff. What value is there on commentary on a month old lesson? There also seems to be some discrepancy as far as ratings- and how subjective they are according to the administrator writing them.

In closing, I want to thank you for all you do~ and truly hope and pray that we are allowed to focus on what we do best- instill the love of learning into the children that are our future, and let them see that we are there for THEM, and THEY are our top priority.

~Karen Rivero