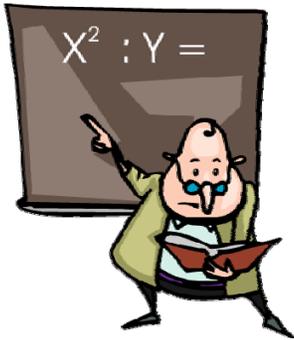


Name _____ **Transition Words**



Should Students Grade Their Teachers?

Conjunctions are words that link ideas together within the same sentence. **Connectives** are words that link ideas between different sentences and paragraphs. Some examples of linking words are:

and but therefore because however furthermore so

DIRECTIONS: Read the article below. Underline all the conjunctions that link ideas within the same sentence. Use a double underline for all of the connectives that link ideas between sentences and paragraphs.

Around the country there is a dialogue going on about how teachers should be evaluated. Currently, the main criteria for evaluating teachers are student test scores and the observations of school administrators. However, it has been proposed that students should be allowed to evaluate their teachers, and in my opinion, there are three very sound reasons why this should be the case.

First, we spend more time with the teachers than the school administrators do. I have personally seen some teachers put on an act when they know that someone important is watching them. Then, when that person leaves, they go right back to being a lousy, impatient teacher.

Second, using class test scores to evaluate how well a teacher is doing does not even begin to tell you what is going on in the classroom. For one thing, it is possible for students who genuinely know the material in an unpressured situation to go completely blank when faced with a test. For another, I have known teachers who bullied their students into doing well on their tests. While this may make the teacher look good to an outsider, it is unproductive. The knowledge is not likely to stick with the student, and students are unlikely to really learn in an environment where they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Third, students learn a lot more in a classroom than what is on the test. They can learn how to study, They can learn how to treat other people, and they can learn things about themselves. A teacher who connects with his or her students is likely to have a lasting impact on them, even if that impact isn't to turn them into fact-spewing encyclopedias or test-taking robots.

So just how are schools supposed to determine who the honest and effective teachers are? Easy. Let us—the students—tell you, because we're the only ones who know for sure.