Grading Policy

This year in class we are going to be using a competency based grading system. Competency based grading consist of rewording Idaho Common Core and district standards into 'I can' phrases (i.e. I can use the text in a story to support my analysis of the story and draw inferences). Students will use class assignments as opportunities to pass off these 'I can' competencies. The goal of this type of grading is to focus the students on what they are learning instead of how many points they are getting. Research has shown this method to be very effective. Regardless of this grading method I am required by the state to give a letter grade, so as a result the letter grading will breakdown based on the following;

Turn in all assignments = C

I accept any assignment until the last day of the trimester. Because of this I require students to turn in every assignment. I don't take time to create an assignment just to have them skipped; all assignments have value and need to be completed.

Turn in all assignments and completion of all competencies = B

Students who turn in every assignment and pass off all of the competencies have shown they are able to master the material. Some might wonder why this is only a B, my goal is to prepare my students for Jr. High, High School, and beyond. This requires more than just doing what is expected.

Completion of all assignments, competencies, and repeated innovation = A

In order to get an A in my class a student will need to take control of their learning by creating their own assignments. Students will have the opportunity to substitute assignments of their own design for class assignments in order to show a greater understanding of the content.   Class assignments are simple opportunities for students to complete competencies; students who substitute my simple assignments for ones created by themselves show a level of mastery that will enable them to succeed.