Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability

Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder

Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability

Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder

Students and the public routinely consult various published college rankings to assess the quality of colleges and universities and easily compare different schools. However, many institutions have responded to the rankings in ways that benefit neither the schools nor their students. In *Engines of Anxiety*, sociologists Wendy Espeland and Michael Sauder delve deep into the mechanisms of law school rankings, which have become a top priority within legal education. Based on a wealth of observational data and over 200 in-depth interviews with law students, university deans, and other administrators, they show how the scramble for high rankings has affected the missions and practices of many law schools.

Engines of Anxiety tracks how rankings, such as those published annually by the U.S. News & World Report, permeate every aspect of legal education, beginning with the admissions process. The authors find that prospective law students not only rely heavily on such rankings to evaluate school quality, but also internalize rankings as expressions of their own abilities and flaws. For example, they often view rejections from "first-tier" schools as a sign of personal failure. The rankings also affect the decisions of admissions officers, who try to balance admitting diverse classes with preserving the school's ranking, which is dependent on factors such as the median LSAT score of the entering class. Espeland and Sauder find that law schools face pressure to admit applicants with high test scores over lower-scoring candidates who possess other favorable credentials.

Engines of Anxiety also reveals how rankings have influenced law schools' career service departments. Because graduates' job placements play a major role in the rankings, many institutions have shifted their career-services resources toward tracking placements, and away from counseling and network-building. In turn, law firms regularly use school rankings to recruit and screen job candidates, perpetuating a cycle in which highly ranked schools enjoy increasing prestige. As a result, the rankings create and reinforce a rigid hierarchy that penalizes lower-tier schools that do not conform to the restrictive standards used in the rankings. The authors show that as law schools compete to improve their rankings, their programs become more homogenized and less accessible to non-traditional students.

The ranking system is considered a valuable resource for learning about more than 200 law schools. Yet, *Engines of Anxiety* shows that the drive to increase a school's rankings has negative consequences for students, educators, and administrators and has implications for all educational programs that are quantified in similar ways.

Download and Read Free Online Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder

---

From reader reviews:

John Lee:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the publications. But also they write about advantage about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability.

Marie Boyd:

Often the book Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. Tom makes some research before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you may get the point easily after looking over this book.

Evelyn Rodrigue:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability, you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Ena Clark:

Reading a book for being new life style in this yr; every people loves to study a book. When you learn a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, and soon. The Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability will give you new experience in reading a book.

Download and Read Online Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder #NBUALM43WF0

Read Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability by Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder for online ebook

Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability by Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability by Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder books to read online.

Online Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability by Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder ebook PDF download

Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability by Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder Doc

Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability by Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder Mobipocket

Engines of Anxiety: Academic Rankings, Reputation, and Accountability by Wendy Nelson Espeland, Michael Sauder EPub