The author makes a qualified assertion that the standards of learning would be restricted by competitions over high grades among students at every level of academia. From my point of view, I agree with the statement, and I think two disadvantages in educational competitions should be considered carefully.

First, by turning the educational environments into competitive surroundings, students would be anxious rather than focusing on their academic objectives. Psychologists would vouch for the fact that when people start to focus on others' grades and achievements, they will lose the opportunity to consume their mental energy in the pursuit of learning more efficiently. Instead, infirm students will be frustrated by the excellence of other tutees so that they cannot concentrate on their progress in learning lessons during semesters. Unfairly imposed frustrations would also affect the morality of students; thus, they cannot learn effectively in other courses throughout their academic career as well.

The second disadvantage of being in a competitive academic situation is that the rivalries would decrease the academic engagements; hence, it could diminish the learning quality of tutees. When there are numerous competitors in a particular educational course, students with lower grades will be disappointed to try diligently. Weaker students consider they simply cannot catch up with students with higher marks, since the margin between their grades looks irrecoverable. Accordingly, more inadequate educational participants stop to endeavor in order to learn more efficiently rather than trying to engage themselves further in the courses.

However, competitions are not without any merits. In some educational levels that the students competing with each other over grades are low-numbered; in the level of Ph.D. students, for instance, they put their maximum effort into work to progress alongside the other tutees. When the number of students is low, they construct friendships and begin to move throughout the courses together. Consequently, a small group of students starts to focus on their academic goals, cooperatively rather than become anxious about others'attainments. They would also engage themselves as hard as they can to catch up with their friends. But those benefits can be reaped if and only if the group of students is small enough to cultivate friendships that benefit everyone.

In closing, so stressful are the competitions that students will be apprehensive about learning materials. Moreover, competing with each other diminishes the engagements of tutees in academia. On the other hand, rivalries over grades come handy for a small group of tutees, for they can progress together advantageously.