ALL ABOUT RUBRICS

Eliana Elkhoury, PhD

teaching@yorku.ca

What is a rubric?

- An assessment guide used to evaluate learning.
- A scoring guide, a set of criteria for grading assignments.
- "...coherent set of criteria for students' work that includes descriptions of levels of performance quality on the criteria" (Brookhart, 2013, p. 4).
- Rubrics allow instructors to distinguish between levels of student performance on a given activity and give feedback accordingly.
- Rubrics are used for learning as well as for grading.

What are the components of a rubric?

1. **Performance criteria (rows)**: factors being measured (e.g., Organization of Essay, Thesis Statement, etc.)
2. **Performance levels (columns)**: (e.g., Poor, Acceptable, Good, Excellent)
3. **Performance level descriptors**: observable characteristics of performance

How do rubrics help instructors?

Rubrics assist instructors with providing:

- Clear guidelines.
- Meaningful feedback that is clear, directed, and focused on ways to improve learning.
- Consistency in evaluation.
- Objectivity in grading.
- To reduce uncertainty and complaints about grades.
- Assistance in adjusting instruction.
- Additional resources based on the overall performance of an entire class.
- Reducing the amount of time spent grading.

How do rubrics help students?

Rubrics assist students with:

- Gaining a better understanding of the course and assignments.
- Clarifying an instructor's expectations on an assignment.
- Understanding how the assignment aligns to the course objectives.
- Offering useful and targeted feedback.
- Improving performance.
- Evaluating one's own work.

What are the characteristics of good rubrics?

- Consist of 3-5 performance levels.
- The labels for the criteria should be distinct, clear, and meaningful.
- The performance level descriptors are observable and measurable.

What are the different types of rubrics?

There are 3 types of rubrics:

1. Holistic
2. Analytic
3. Single Point

Holistic Rubric

- a one-dimensional assessment scale
- all the evaluation criteria are considered together
- the instructor assigns a single score based on an overall judgment of the student's work

Advantages:

- Saves time by minimizing the number of decisions made
- Can be used consistently across raters, provided there has been training

Disadvantages:

- Does not provide specific feedback for improvement
- Can be difficult to choose a score when student work is at varying levels across the criteria

Analytic Rubric

- two dimensional
- insights on areas of strengths and weaknesses
- more time to develop
- descriptions of what each criteria looks like for each level of performance.
- each of the criteria is scored individually

Weighted Rubric

A weighted rubric is an analytic rubric in which certain concepts are judged more heavily than others.

> **TIP**: You can assign different values to different criteria and conclude to the overall achievement score by adding up achievements of various criteria.

Single Point Rubric

- only two levels of assessment
- "Yes/No" or "Achieved/Not-Achieved" model
- easy to use and quicker to analyze

Advantages:

- Less language
- Not restricted (students don't tend to follow the details)

Disadvantages:

- More writing on the teacher's part

> **TIP**: Using checklists also helps in reaching more consistent grading decisions over multiple times. For instance, all teachers know what the top performances look like and what the poor performances look like. But the middle is always unclear.

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY

teaching commons
DELIVER
assist
advise
design

What are the steps of creating a rubric?

- Step 1: Define outcomes and goals for the rubric
- Step 2: Choose the rubric type
- Step 3: Define the assessment criteria
- Step 4: Define the performance levels
- Step 5: Write performance descriptions for each level of rubric
- Step 6: Revise

As Stevens & Levi note, "labeling the levels on the scale can be a delicate matter. We need to be clear about expectations and about failures as well as successes, yet we also try to avoid overly negative or competitive labels. These can discourage students" (p. 41).

Sample Scale Ratings

Three Levels
- Weak, Satisfactory, Strong
- Beginning, Intermediate, High
- Weak, Average, Excellent
- Developing, Competent, Exemplary
- Low Mastery, Average Mastery, High Mastery

Four Levels
- Unacceptable, Marginal, Proficient, Distinguished
- Beginning, Developing, Accomplished, Exemplary
- Needs Improvement, Satisfactory, Good, Accomplished
- Emerging, Progressing, Partial Mastery, Mastery
- Not Yet Competent, Partly Competent, Competent, Sophisticated
- Inadequate, Needs Improvement, Meets Expectations, Exceeds Expectations
- Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent

Five Levels
- Poor, Minimal, Sufficient, Above Average, Excellent
- Novice, Intermediate, Proficient, Distinguished, Master
- Unacceptable, Poor, Satisfactory, Good, Excellent

Six Levels
- Unacceptable, Emerging, Minimally Acceptable, Acceptable, Accomplished, Exemplary

How do I design a rating scale?

- Each assignment type might require different grading scales and different levels.
- Decide how many different levels work for each assignment.
- You may also consider whether to list the highest possible level of achievement first or last.

TIP: start with the criteria and think about the different levels of work that students might present.

What are well-written descriptors?

- describe observable and measurable behavior.
- use parallel language across the scale.
- indicate the degree to which the standards are met.

What are some leading practices for creating rubrics?

- develop a different rubrics for different levels of assignments
- be transparent
- revise
- try it out on a sample of student work
- ask students to use the rubric to evaluate their own work.
- ask students to use the rubric for peer review
- create the rubric in eClass

TIP: consider co-creating rubrics with your students!

Examples of Criteria

Unique Criteria

- Artistic representation of work
- Control of Syntax and Mechanics
- Innovative Thinking Novelty or uniqueness (of idea, claim, question, form, etc.)
- Bias
- Originality
- Attractiveness
- Neatness

Written Criteria

- Answering the Question
- Organization
- Spelling and Grammar
- Voice
- Word Choice
- Use of Figurative Language
- Presentation
- Label Diagrams
- Purpose

Performance Criteria

- Speak Clearly
- Use of Visuals
- Engaging
- Play / Sing Correct Rhythm / Notes
- Accuracy of Factual Information
- Ask Relevant Questions
- Follow Steps in Experiment
- Video / Audio Editing

Behavioral Criteria

- Respect for others (debate)
- Follow Directions
- Work Well with a Group
- Use Kind Words
- Listen to Others
- Raise Hand to ask Question
- Stay on Task

Examples of Rubrics by Discipline

Discipline	Link to sample rubric
Physics paper	Physics Essay Scoring Rubric (syr.edu)
Chemistry/biochemistry research paper	Research Paper Scoring Rubric (syr.edu)
Argumentative essay in history	History Essay Grading Rubric (ju.edu)
Economics paper	ECO 403 - Term Paper Grading Rubric.pdf (utoronto.ca)
Engineering Design Process Assessment Rubric	Microsoft Word - Assessment Rubric fall 2008.doc (csus.edu) 12_Step_Engineering_Design_Process_Assessment_Rubric_-_Varanasi.pdf (unt.edu)
Linguistic analysis	LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS Rubric - Valdosta.pdf (fiu.edu)
Drama	Criteria (virginia.edu)
Philosophy and religion	Rubric for Philosophy and Religion Program Objectives (virginia.edu)
Theater appreciation	art_theatreappreciation.pdf (virginia.edu)
Science lab report	Helping Faculty with Rubric Development (virginia.edu)
Engineering project design	Sophisticated (fiu.edu)
Oral exam math	rubricExam.pdf (queensu.ca)
Dance	iRubric: Assessment: Dance Performance rubric - N224AX3: RCampus
English Writing Seminar course	The A Essay is outstanding and demonstrates mastery over the elements of the academic essay (yale.edu)

Examples of Rubrics by Tool

Tool	Link to sample rubric
Graduate Writing Assessment	11 rubric_writingport.doc - Google Drive
Creative project	Creative_Project_Assessment_Rubric.pdf (westmarkschool.org)
Creative Art	iRubric: Rubric for All Creative Art Assignments - Q3X9A4: RCampus
In-Class Reflective Pieces	FW_rubric_metacognition_2008_09_19.doc - Google Drive
Rubric for Oral Presentations	OC_rubric_presentations_2009-01-21.doc - Google Drive
Poster Presentation Rubric	Rubrics--Research and Research Communication - Google Drive
Oral Presentation	Rubrics--Research and Research Communication - Google Drive
Writing On Dramatic Theory	SCORING RUBRIC; WRITING ON DRAMATIC THEORY (fresnostate.edu)
Digital video project	digital-video-project-rubric.pdf (fresnostate.edu)
Eportfolio rubric	EPortfolio Rubric (Digital Portfolio Rubric) (uwstout.edu)
Online discussion rubric	Discussion Rubric (uwstout.edu)
Graphic organizer rubric	Inspiration Rubric (uwstout.edu)
Art and design rubric	Microsoft Word - A4_Arts_Design_Knowledge_Outcome.docx (fresnostate.edu)
Podcast rubric	Podcast Rubric (uwstout.edu)
Research paper	Research Paper Rubric.xls (vanderbilt.edu)
Case study rubric	SWC-RUBRIC-CASE-STUDY.pdf (natafoundation.org)
Performance/acting rubric	theater_201314_rubric.pdf (chapman.edu)
Video project	Video Project Rubric (uwstout.edu) Video Presentation Rubric - Google Docs
infographic	create-infographic-rubric_7.pdf (viu.ca)
OER rubric	iRubric: Evaluating OER rubric - L9WC6X: RCampus
Capstone project	Capstone Framework (virginia.edu)
Book Review	humanities_bookreview.pdf (virginia.edu)
Poetry anthology rubric	iRubric: Poetry Anthology Rubric - K9494B: RCampus
Annotated bibliography	Annotated Bibliography Rubric (UGS 302) - Information Literacy Toolkit - LibGuides at University of Texas at Austin (utexas.edu)
vlog	LVTRubric.png (919×699) (ucf.edu)
Oral exam	Oral Exam – Evaluation Sheet (ucla.edu)
Essay rubric	Grading Rubric (ucalgary.ca)
Podcast	Podcast Rubric (uwstout.edu)
Twitter	Twitter Rubric (uwstout.edu)
Blog rubric	A Rubric for Evaluating Student Blogs (uwstout.edu)
wiki	Wiki Rubric (uwstout.edu)

YORK U
UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

teaching commons
DELIVER assist advise design

Examples of Rubrics by Skill

Skill	Link to sample rubric
Creativity	Assessing Creativity - Educational Leadership (ascd.org)
Inquiry and analysis	Inquiry and Analysis VALUE Rubric | Association of American Colleges & Universities (aacu.org)
Group participation rubric	rubric_grp_participation.doc - Google Drive
Participation rubric	7 rubric_participation.doc - Google Drive
Design Project	8 rubric_designproject.doc - Google Drive
Critical thinking	9 rubric_criticalthinking.doc - Google Drive
	Washington State University Critical Thinking Project (cpp.edu)
Scientific reasoning rubric	ScientificReasoningRubric-TCC.pdf (stockton.edu)

Would you like to learn more?

Contact us at Teaching Commons for additional resources, handouts, applications, courses, workshops, examples, advice, assistance, consulting, and anything else related to teaching and learning. We are here and eager to help!

✉ Teaching Commons   Robert D. Winkler

🕸 TC Homepage   BOLD Going Remote   BOLD Institute Open Session

🤝 1050 Victor Phillip Dahdaleh (formerly TEL) Building, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

☎ 416.736.2100 ext. 55754

YORK UNIVERSITÉ UNIVERSITY

teaching commons | assist advise design