

## 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

Rubric to evaluate your own rubric  
[Rubric-ing Rubrics | OER Commons](#)

## 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 (Click [HERE](#) for holistic rubric example from Cambrian College)

- 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 (Click [HERE](#) for analytic rubric example from Cambrian College)

- 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 (Click [HERE](#) for single point; rubric example from Cambrian College)

- 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.

## 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

Physics paper rubric

Chemistry/biochemistry research paper rubric

Argumentative essay in history rubric

Economics paper rubric

Engineering Design Process Assessment rubric

Linguistic analysis rubric

Drama rubric

Philosophy and religion rubric

Theater appreciation rubric

Science lab report rubric

Engineering project design rubric

Oral exam math rubric

Dance rubric

English Writing Seminar course rubric

### Link to sample rubric

[Physics Essay Scoring Rubric \(syr.edu\)](#)

[Research Paper Scoring Rubric \(syr.edu\)](#)

[History Essay Grading Rubric \(ju.edu\)](#)

[ECO 403 - Term Paper Grading Rubric.pdf \(utoronto.ca\)](#)

[Microsoft Word - Assessment Rubric fall 2008.doc \(csus.edu\)](#)

[12 Step Engineering Design Process Assessment Rubric - Varanasi.pdf \(unt.edu\)](#)

[LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS Rubric - Valdosta.pdf \(fiu.edu\)](#)

[Criteria \(virginia.edu\)](#)

[Rubric for Philosophy and Religion Program Objectives \(virginia.edu\)](#)

[art\\_theatreappreciation.pdf \(virginia.edu\)](#)

[Helping Faculty with Rubric Development \(virginia.edu\)](#)

[Sophisticated \(fiu.edu\)](#)

[rubricExam.pdf \(queensu.ca\)](#)

[iRubric: Assessment: Dance Performance rubric - N224AX3: RCampus](#)

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

## Examples of Rubrics by Skill

### Skill

### Link to sample rubric

Reflection rubric

[Assessment rubrics | The University of Edinburgh](#)

Creativity rubric

[Assessing Creativity - Educational Leadership \(ascd.org\)](#)

Inquiry and analysis rubric

[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 rubric

[8\\_rubric\\_designproject.doc - Google Drive](#)

Critical thinking rubric

[9\\_rubric\\_criticalthinking.doc - Google Drive](#)  
[Washington State University Critical Thinking Project \(cpp.edu\)](#)



## 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](#)

[Eliana Elkhoury](#)

[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



This guide is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits sharing and adapting of the material, provided the original work is properly attributed, any changes are clearly indicated, and the material is not used for commercial purposes.