Resources on Rubrics

Why use a rubric?

- Improve your assignment and instructions
- Clarify expectations for students and emphasize your priorities
- Improve consistency in grading
- Provide clear feedback to students
- Give students a tool for formative assessments and self-check of work
- Get a bird's eye view of how an individual student is doing across the semester
- Get a bird's eye view of how the class performed on an assignment
- Evaluate skill development throughout a program of study

What makes a good rubric?

- Include each element of the assignment – what are you evaluating? Are these tied to your learning outcomes?
- Define your quality levels—provide detailed distinctions between excellent and poor work
- Use measurable and observable criteria
- Use a scoring system with 3-5 levels
- Include a place for comments

Types of rubrics

- Analytical – considered most useful; has each element with qualitative criteria for every level (e.g., A, B, C).
- Holistic – criteria or quality levels may not be distinguished; useful for minor assignments, quick feedback.

How to create a rubric

- Reflect – what do you want from the students?
- List – what are the details of the assignment?
- Group and Label – organize by type of skills or expectations
- Apply – create the rubric; provide detailed descriptions
- Test – ask a colleague or student for feedback; test with multiple graders, or re-test by yourself over time.

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Resources on rubrics

There are many resources available on the internet to provide examples of rubrics. Here are some useful sites:

- Authentic Assessment Toolbox Detailed suggestions and instructions on how to create a rubric
- VALUE Rubrics for Creative Thinking, Oral Communication, Problem Solving, Written Communication and more, developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities
- GWU Office of Academic Planning and Assessment Examples of rubrics for oral communication, critical thinking, and others
- Faculty Focus Short articles on rubrics
- Merlot.org Search Assessment Rubrics and filter resources

The IMPACT website has handouts with instructions for how to create and use a rubric in the Blackboard section.

Need more assistance?

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