

Rubrics- Helpful Hints

What is a rubric?

A rubric is a set of specific evaluation criteria used to assess students' work. When shared with students before an assignment begins, a rubric acts as a guide, with expectations and point values clearly defined.

Rubrics are generally set up as tables, with each criteria listed as a separate row, and the evaluative scale or achievement levels listed horizontally across the top as separate columns.

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	Exemplary	Accomplished	Developing	Incompetent
Article Summary	4 Points Article summary is accurate, well organized, coherent and well written.	3 Points Summary is accurate but organization could be improved.	2 Points Summary is reasonably accurate -some minor errors and/or organization is poor.	1 Points Summary is inaccurate and contains several errors.
Reflection	4 Points Student makes insightful connections between article and knowledge gained in chemistry or other science courses.	3 Points Student makes connections to scientific knowledge.	2 Points Student alludes to connections to scientific knowledge but is not explicit. Student makes connections to life experiences not based in science.	1 Points Connections are not coherent or are incorrect.
Mechanics and Formatting	4 Points All grammar/spelling is correct and very well written. All sections in order, well-formatted, very readable.	3 Points Less than 3 grammar/spelling errors, mature, readable style. Formatting generally good but could still be improved.	2 Points Occasional grammar/spelling errors, generally readable with some rough spots in writing style. Formatting is rough but readable.	1 Points Frequent grammar and/or spelling errors, writing style is rough and immature. Organization poor, sloppy formatting.

Why should I use a rubric in my course?

- Promotes consistency in grading. This is especially helpful if one or more TAs is assigned grading responsibilities.
- Communicates clear expectations to students. Students use rubrics to guide them while completing their assignments.
- Promotes self-reflection, self-assessment among students. This often results in higher quality work from students.
- Promotes formative assessment. Use the results of a previous assessment to guide the objectives of the next assessment.
- Saves time. Rubrics reduce the need for assignment and grading clarification since the expectations are clearly outlined at the time the assignment begins.

Considerations when creating a rubric:

- Determine the learning objectives of the assessment
- Keep the rubric short and simple (4-15 items)
- Each rubric item should focus on a separate skill (i.e. grammar, neatness, etc.)
- Review the rubric and revise if necessary

Blackboard Rubrics:

- Rubrics can be used with the following Blackboard tools: Assignments, Tests, Discussion Board Forums and Threads, Blogs, Wikis, Journals, and Grade Center Columns.
- Blackboard rubrics are interactive – instructors and TAs can use them during the grading process to grade assignments and provide feedback to students, making grading faster and more efficient.
- Students can view rubrics as they complete an assignment and also in the MyGrades tool, after an assignment has been graded.
- If using the 'import' feature, only rubrics created in Blackboard may be imported.
- Negative points can be applied to a rubric to subtract points from the total when grading an assignment.