

## Instructional Rubrics for Teaching & Learning

### What is it?

A rubric is a detailed explanation of performance expectations for individual components of an assignment. Often presented in table form, a rubric would describe levels of performance in descriptions of component qualities, in columns distributed by grade or competency level. Points or percentages are often assigned to each component to explain their weight in the total. Instructional rubrics are created with the intention of incorporating them into both the teaching and assessment of the assignment.

### What does it look like in practice?

Rubrics would be distributed to students at the beginning of an assignment as one form of explaining expectations. The rubric might focus more on the evaluation of elements of the assignment, whereas an assignment might focus more on the outcomes and objectives. Students would use the rubric for self-assessment as they complete their assignment, which encourages self-directed learning. Faculty would use the rubric to develop pertinent course content and instruction. Rubrics may be created with students, prompting important discussions of course work and creating a more involved experience for students.

### How does such a method fit into my course?

- Rubrics can be created for all types of assignments. The design and use of rubrics is a developed skill that can help instructors more clearly relate course outcomes with assignments and teaching:
- For written assignments (reports and essays), rubrics generally give the most weight to writing standards, especially mature expressions of content knowledge.
- For more procedural assignments, such as scientific lab or clinic work, rubrics might focus more on the acquisition of activity-based skills and performance of protocols.
- For artistic performance projects, rubrics might look at the application of learned principles, as well as levels of execution.

#### Further Reading and Resources:

- Article: Andrade, Heidi Goodrich. "Using Rubrics to Promote Thinking and Learning." *Educational Leadership* 57.5 [Feb. 2000]. Written primarily for K-12, the article is very adaptable to higher education.  
<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/feb00/vol57/num05/Using-Rubrics-to-Promote-Thinking-and-Learning.aspx>
- Developing Instructional Rubrics. Web guide with resources. Carleton College.  
<http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/assessment/instrubrics.html>
- iRubric from RCampus—Free rubric creation site. <http://www.rcampus.com/indexrubric.cfm>
- Rubistar—free rubric creation by project design. <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php>