

## Rubrics

It is the end of the semester. In front of you lies yet another huge stack of research papers. You know that grading papers and essays is a subjective process, and you will most likely be scoring the first few papers differently than the last few. But you want to be fair to the students. Perhaps you have a teaching assistant to help grade the papers and you want to be sure the grading is consistent. Maybe you are even dismayed that students have not produced the caliber of writing that you expected. What you need is a scoring rubric.

A rubric is a set of criteria and standards designed to help you score written assignments along the dimensions that you want students to address. Although creating a rubric can be time-consuming, it will actually save you time. If you give it to students along with the assignment, you will receive better-prepared papers, which eases grading. You will also have a systematic document that will enable scoring that is closely aligned with your learning objectives, fair to students, and relatively quickly accomplished.

### Resources

- Rubric Basics (.pdf)
- How to Develop a Rubric (.pdf)
- Examples
  - Oral Communication Rubric (.pdf)
  - Science Experiments Rubric (.pdf)
  - Problem Solving Rubric (.pdf)
- Designing Scoring Rubrics for your Classroom  
<http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=7&n=25>
- Rubistar: Templates for creating project-based rubrics  
<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php>
- Primary Trait Analysis is a rubric development process described quite well in Walvoord, B. & Anderson, J. (1998) *Effective grading: A tool for learning and assessment*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Additional information about rubrics are included in this set of resources compiled by Carol McQuiggan at the Faculty Center for Teaching and Instructional Technology - [http://www.cl.psu.edu/ets/teaching\\_resources.htm](http://www.cl.psu.edu/ets/teaching_resources.htm)