

Assessment Day: Rubric Creation

November 22, 2013



tara kaczorowski
tarakacz@buffalo.edu
university at buffalo



andrew hashey
ahashey@buffalo.edu
university at buffalo



dane marco di cesare
danedice@buffalo.edu
university at buffalo

Type

Holistic

Analytic

Description

A holistic rubric consists of a single scale with all criteria to be included in the evaluation being considered together (e.g., clarity, organization, and mechanics). With a holistic rubric the rater assigns a single score (usually on a 1 to 4 or 1 to 6 point scale) based on an overall judgment of the student work. The rater matches an entire piece of student work to a single description on the scale.

An analytic rubric resembles a grid with the criteria for a student product listed in the leftmost column and with levels of performance listed across the top row often using numbers and/or descriptive tags. The cells within the center of the rubric should contain descriptions of what the specified criteria look like for each level of performance. When scoring with an analytic rubric each of the criteria is scored individually.

Advantages

Emphasis on what the learner is able to demonstrate, rather than what s/he cannot do.
Saves time by minimizing the number of decisions raters make.
Can be applied consistently by trained raters increasing reliability.

Provide useful feedback on areas of strength and weakness
Criterion can be weighted to reflect the relative importance of each dimension.

Disadvantages

Does not provide specific feedback for improvement.
When student work is at varying levels spanning the criteria points it can be difficult to select the single best description.
Criteria cannot be weighted.

Takes more time to create than a holistic rubric
Unless each point for each criterion is well-defined, raters may not arrive at the same score.

Key Points for Rubric Creation

1. Determine the best kind of rubric for your purposes.
2. Begin by thinking about the characteristics of the task you want to assess.
3. For each element or characteristic, identify a range of classifications (4 levels is common), ranging from low to high, novice to expert, etc.
4. Start by identifying the levels at each extreme (i.e., identify the features that for best and worst examples, then work towards the middle).

Implementing Instructional Rubrics

As you incorporate rubrics into your teaching, it's critical to review rubrics with your students *before* they begin their task so that the rubrics can guide their work. By discussing each element with students, you can better ensure they understand the criteria against which they will be assessed. Students can use this knowledge to self-evaluate their work as they produce it; ideally, this will help students produce higher quality products, while increasing your ability to objectively evaluate your students' work.

Web-Based Rubric Resources

Rubistar

Geared toward K-12 education, but can be adapted for higher ed use

Create and save printable paper-based rubrics

Users need to register for this resource, but registration is free!

<http://rubistar.4teachers.org>

iRubric

Geared toward all levels of education, including higher-ed

Easily create and export rubrics in both paper and digital form

Evaluate student on digital versions of your rubrics

Generate assessment reports for students at the individual or group level

Share your rubrics with other professionals

Collaborate with other professionals on the same rubric

Users need to register for this resource, but registration is free for educators!

<http://www.rcampus.com/indexrubric.cfm>

teAchnology

Search through over 500 ready-made rubrics with categorical search features

Create your own printable paper-based rubric

Geared toward K-12 education

Various rubric-creator tools for different subjects and specific behaviors

Evaluate student on digital versions of your rubrics

http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/rubrics/

Kathy Schrock's Guide to Everything: Assessment and Rubrics

Lots of free rubrics to use/customize (check out her entire site...it's amazing!)

<http://www.schrockguide.net/assessment-and-rubrics.html>