What’s a rubric?

A rubric is a tool that explicitly describes the specific criteria used to evaluate a student’s performance at various levels of achievement. Rubrics may be used for many types of student work: artwork, writing, online discussions, oral presentations, group work. Rubrics often look like a grid with words.

Rubrics:

- communicate expectations to students
- describe components of work at various levels of achievement
- let students self-assess
- align grading standards of faculty who teach the same course
- inform new instructors of course expectations

Reference Rubric

A grid that lists the criteria (up to 7) on the left side, and describes 2-5* levels of achievement for each criterion in the corresponding boxes. Students see it with the assignment. Teachers use it to guide feedback and critique.

* 3 is recommended

Sample Critique

Samples of student work that show the rubrics in action.

They show the instructor’s actual evaluation of the work and the justification for that evaluation using language from the reference rubric. It prepares students for their own critiques by demonstrating what to expect.

Grading Rubric

A reference rubric form that teachers mark up to deliver feedback to the students on specific work they have handed in.