

Guidance for Crafting Grading Rubrics

What is this guide? This guide provides advice for educators creating rubrics to grade assignments effectively.

How to use this guide? Refer to these suggestions while developing a new rubric or modifying an existing one. These guidelines are based on frequently asked questions and should streamline the rubric creation process. For support, contact instructional design experts.

Common Rubric Design Tips

- How many performance levels should be included?
 - Typically, 3-5 levels are sufficient. Ensure distinct differences between each level. More levels can create finer distinctions but may also reduce clarity.
- What terms should be used for performance levels?
 - For lower levels, use terms like "does not meet requirements" instead of "poor" or "failing."
 - Mid-range levels might be "meets most requirements" or "satisfactory."
 - Top levels could be "excellent" or "exceeds expectations."
- How are points assigned to each level? Align point values with your grading standards. Assign a total possible score, then distribute points across criteria based on their importance, placing point values with performance descriptions for clarity.
- Can rubrics include flexibility? Yes, allow a range of points for each level to introduce some flexibility.
- How to write clear performance descriptions? Describe the highest level first, then the lowest level, and fill in the middle levels, adjusting the descriptors to reflect varying degrees of performance.
- Should descriptions be numerical or descriptive? Use numbers for quantifiable criteria and descriptive language for qualitative criteria. A mix of both is often effective.
- How to test a rubric's effectiveness? Grade assignments by comparing them to the highest performance description first, then proceed to lower levels if necessary.
- Is it possible to use rubrics for online grading? Digital platforms like Blackboard and Turnitin support rubric creation and grading online, with seamless integration into their grading systems.
- Where to find rubric examples? Search online for rubrics in your discipline, or find downloadable examples tailored to common assignments from educational websites.