Silberman
School of Social Work
HUNTER

RUBRICS: What are they and how do I create one?

WHAT IS A RUBRIC?

A rubric is a scoring tool that makes explicit your expectations for an assignment. Rubrics can be used for a variety of assignments including research papers, online discussions, oral presentations, and media projects. *"Rubrics divide an assignment into its component parts and provides detailed descriptions of what it acceptable or unacceptable levels of performance for each of those parts."*[1]

WHY USE A RUBRIC?

1. Rubrics make expectations for a given assignment very clear.
2. Rubrics are good for measuring higher-order skills or evaluating complex tasks.
3. Students can use the rubric to assess their own work.
4. Grading is more objective, unbiased and consistent.
5. Students get better feedback about their own strengths and weaknesses.
6. Rubrics can also identify patterns of strengths and weaknesses for students.[2]

Criteria	Superior	Excellent	G
	90-100 pts.	80-89 pts.	70-
Responsiveness to discussion assignment prompt 22.5%	All components of discussion prompt addressed in *initial* posting [22.5 points]	All components of discussion prompt addressed in *multiple* postings [20.03 points]	Up to 9 prompt compo addres or more [17.78
Application of assigned reading(s) 22.5%	Very clear that readings were understood by incorporation into postings [22.5 points]	Somewhat clear that readings were understood by incorporation into postings [20.03 points]	Somew *unclear* reading unders incorpo posting [17.78

HOW DO I CREATE A RUBRIC?

1. **Step 1:** Define your assignment. Would you like to create a rubric for a paper, a project, an oral presentation, online discussion participation, blog posts?
2. **Step 2:** Decide on your scale of performance. Your scale should, ideally, have three or more levels:
   a. Exemplary, Proficient, Good, Needs Work
   b. Exceeds, Meets, Does Not Meet Expectations
3. **Step 3:** Decide on your criteria for the task. These criteria should be measurable and observable: organization, clarity, supporting evidence, participation/interaction, citations, mechanics, language, etc.
4. **Step 4:** Describe each criterion for each level identified in Step 2. What is the difference between "Proficient" and "Good" for the *Clarity* criterion?

TIPS:

- Review sample rubrics online and adapt as needed. *(Remember to give credit.)*
  - o Cornell Research Paper Rubric
  - o Teaching Online Pedagogical Repository/Discussion Rubrics
- Have copies of student work to refer to when you are developing your rubric.
- Use sites like Rubistar and iRubric to build rubrics.

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[1] Stevens, D. and Levi, A. (2005) *Introductions to Rubrics: An Assessment Tool to Save Grdig Time, Convey Effective Feedback, and Promote Student Learning*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Pub.
[2] Andrade, H. (2000). Using Rubrics to Promote Thinking and Learning. *Educational Leadership*, 57(5), 13.