



APRIL 2021 | ISSUE 8

#STUDENTLEARNINGMATTERS

Enhancing Content Delivery to Increase Learning and Retention

RUBRICS

FACT: The word rubric comes from the Latin word for red. The rules for the conduct of liturgical services were often printed in red, so the rules were "the red things" on the page.

A RUBRIC IS A COHERENT SET OF CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS' WORK THAT INCLUDES DESCRIPTIONS OF PERFORMANCE LEVELS. THE GENIUS OF RUBRICS IS THAT THEY ARE DESCRIPTIVE AND NOT EVALUATIVE. OF COURSE, RUBRICS CAN BE USED TO EVALUATE,

Ask Yourself...How can using rubrics in your class increase student learning and retention (and reduce your grading load)?

RUBRICS OFFER GREAT VALUE FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS. THEY...

- PROVIDE AN "ANSWER KEY"
- ALLOW CONSISTENT ASSESSMENT
- CAN BE IMPARTIAL
- SERVE AS A TEACHING TOOL
- HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND EXPECTATIONS
- MAKE SCORING EASIER AND FASTER
- IMPROVE FEEDBACK TO STUDENTS

So, how do you create a rubric?

(click on each number for more information/resources)



Define Your Goal - How detailed do you want to be? How will you break down the expectations for the assignment? Are all tasks equally important? How do you want to assess performance?



Choose a Rubric Type - Analytic (more detailed feedback, broken down by assignment parts) or Holistic (grade the assignment as a whole)



Determine Your Criteria - Looking at your learning objectives for the course, determine what knowledge and skills you are assessing.



Determine Your Performance Levels - What score type do you want to assign for each mastery level? (e.g., 4 - Exceptional, 3 - Satisfactory, etc.)



Write Descriptors for Each Rubric Level - Descriptors include short statements of your expectations underneath each performance level. Descriptors should be single-barreled, specific, and measurable.



Revise Your Rubric - Read through your work and refine your descriptors so your rubric ideally fits on one page.

Remember, communication is important. Communicate to your students the purpose and design of the rubric, and help them understand the value for learning and retention.