

## Making Rubrics Part of Teaching

***“Rubrics are not a replacement for good instruction. Even a fabulous rubric does not change the fact that students need models, feedback, and opportunities to ask questions, think, revise, and so on.” --Heidi Andrade***

Heidi Andrade makes an important point about rubrics: students don't automatically know how to use them. While rubrics certainly save us time in scoring students' work, at their best they also help students clearly understand our expectations, making the whole process of assigning and grading work more transparent. Here are three different ways this increased clarity might look:

- When introducing the assignment, have students work with the rubric in class  
Provide a “middling” sample of the assignment—something with a mix of strengths and weaknesses. Working individually, students score it and then explain their scoring to a partner. Finally, the instructor presents and discusses his/her scoring
- Create a rubric with the students  
As a starting point, provide both a good and bad sample of the completed assignment—and be prepared to steer the discussion toward the assignment's important components.
- Ask students to turn in the completed rubric with their completed assignment.  
This serves as one last reminder of the importance of the rubric.

Want to know more about teaching with rubrics?

Andrade, H. G. (2005). Teaching with rubrics: The good, the bad, and the ugly. *College Teaching* 53(1), 27-30.

A leading expert's discussion of ways to integrate a rubric into the actual teaching of a class.

Rubrics: Useful assessment tools (nd). University of Waterloo Centre for Teaching Excellence. Retrieved from

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/assessing-student-work/grading-and-feedback/rubrics-useful-assessment-tools>

Includes rubric for class participation that would be quite simple to use--as well as a general discussion of rubrics.

Using rubrics (2018). Cornell University Center for Teaching Innovation. Retrieved from

<https://www.cte.cornell.edu/teaching-ideas/assessing-student-learning/using-rubrics.html>

The highlight here is a big collection of links to various collections of rubrics