

# How to Create and Use Rubrics for Effective Formative Assessment and Grading

Rubrics are a powerful tool for formative assessment and grading. They provide students with clear expectations for their work and help them to understand how their performance will be evaluated. This can lead to improved student achievement, as students are more likely to put forth their best effort when they know what is expected of them.

## What is a Rubric?



## How to Create and Use Rubrics for Formative Assessment and Grading by Susan M. Brookhart

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A rubric is a scoring guide that outlines the criteria for a particular assignment or task. It typically includes a list of performance levels, each with a corresponding description. Students can use rubrics to self-assess their work, and teachers can use them to assess student performance and provide feedback.

## Types of Rubrics

There are many different types of rubrics, but the most common are:

- **Analytic Rubrics:** These rubrics break down a task into smaller components, each of which is assessed separately. This type of rubric is often used for complex tasks, such as essays or projects.
- **Holistic Rubrics:** These rubrics assess a task as a whole, rather than breaking it down into smaller components. This type of rubric is often used for simpler tasks, such as short answer questions or quizzes.
- **General Rubrics:** These rubrics can be used to assess a variety of tasks, regardless of the subject matter or grade level. This type of rubric is often used for formative assessment, as it can help students to develop general skills, such as critical thinking and problem-solving.

## How to Create a Rubric

The following steps can be followed when creating a rubric:

1. **Identify the Learning Goals:** The first step in creating a rubric is to identify the learning goals for the assignment or task. These learning goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).
2. **Determine the Performance Levels:** Once the learning goals have been identified, the next step is to determine the performance levels for the rubric. These performance levels should be clear and concise, and they should reflect the different levels of student achievement.

3. **Develop the Scoring Criteria:** The final step in creating a rubric is to develop the scoring criteria. These criteria should be specific and objective, and they should align with the learning goals and performance levels.

## How to Use Rubrics

Rubrics can be used in a variety of ways, including:

- **Formative Assessment:** Rubrics can be used to provide students with feedback on their work throughout the learning process. This feedback can help students to identify areas where they need to improve, and it can also help them to track their progress.
- **Summative Assessment:** Rubrics can also be used to assess student learning at the end of a unit or course. This assessment can be used to determine student grades and to make decisions about future instruction.
- **Self-Assessment:** Rubrics can be used by students to assess their own work. This can help students to develop metacognitive skills, such as self-reflection and self-regulation.

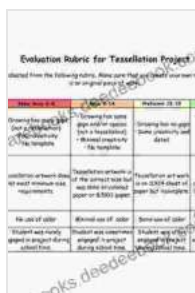
## Benefits of Using Rubrics

There are many benefits to using rubrics, including:

- **Improved Student Achievement:** Rubrics can help students to improve their achievement by providing them with clear expectations and feedback.

- **Increased Student Engagement:** Rubrics can help students to stay engaged in their learning by making them aware of the criteria for success.
- **Reduced Bias:** Rubrics can help to reduce bias in grading by providing objective criteria for assessment.
- **Enhanced Communication:** Rubrics can help to improve communication between teachers and students by providing a common language for discussing student performance.

Rubrics are a powerful tool for formative assessment and grading. They can help students to improve their achievement, increase their engagement, reduce bias, and enhance communication. By following the steps outlined in this article, you can create and use rubrics to improve your teaching and student learning.



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