

How to Create Rubrics

Step 1. Generate Potential Dimensions

- This first step is the most important. It is what distinguishes a rubric from a traditional letter grade. By carefully choosing a number of dimensions to evaluate, we make our expectations clearer and our feedback is much more helpful.
- Work your way through the table below and jot down the names of dimensions that might make sense as part of your rubric.

If the Task has these elements...	then consider these as possible dimensions:
Oral Presentation	Voice projection Body language Grammar and pronunciation Organization
Written products	Grammar and spelling Organization Formatting
Creative products	Surprisingness, novelty Technical quality Adherence to conventions of the genre
Collaboration	Cooperation Taking responsibility Conflict resolution
Persuasion	Quality of argument Match of appeal to audience Organization & sequence

Step 2: Select a Reasonable Number of Dimensions

- In Step 1, you probably listed more dimensions than you really need, so now it's time to weed it down. How many is enough? Some recommend that your rubric should fit on one printed page. Others say that 4 to 8 dimensions is about right.

- There's no one correct answer, but it might help if you consider your purpose for this measurement. If it's diagnostic and formative, err on the side of more dimensions rather than fewer. If you just want to be able to give a summative evaluation of your students' performance for this particular lesson, fewer dimensions are OK.
- Ask yourself what the most important aspects of this task are and rank your dimensions from most important to least.
- Eliminate those dimensions that are at the bottom of your list until you've determined the most important 4 to 8 dimensions.
- Write those remaining dimensions in the leftmost column of the [rubric template](#).

Step 3: Write Descriptions

- Now think about each dimension.
- What would a superb example of each dimension look like? Describe in succinctly and clearly and write each description in the rightmost column of the rubric.
- What would a slightly less example look like?
- Fill out the next column, and so on until you have each cell of the matrix filled.
- Example of rubric:

	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4
Stated Objective or Performance	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting a beginning level of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting development and movement toward mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting the highest level of performance.

There are a number of websites that will allow you to make your own rubrics free of charge:

[Rubric Construction Set](#)

The Landmark project lets you build a rubric on-line, then lets you print the rubric AND gives you the HTML code for your rubric if you happen to keep your own web page. (added 2001/05/09)

[Making rubrics on-line](#) > <http://landmark-project.com/classweb/rubrics/index.html>

[RubiStar Home](#)

A new site that helps you make rubrics and helps you determine your criteria for certain types of student projects. (added 2002/01/24) [Making rubrics on-line](#) > <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/>

<http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/staffdev/tpss99/rubrics/rubrics.html>