Blackboard Rubric Tool

Communicating expectations for enhanced student (and instructor) success!

As defined on Blackboard Help Text:

An assessment tool listing evaluation criteria for an assignment. A rubric divides the assigned work into parts and provides clear descriptions of the characteristics of the work associated with each part, at varying levels of skill. You can use a rubric to communicate the assignment requirements and acceptable performance standards. Rubrics can help ensure consistent and impartial grading. ***Students can use the rubric to organize their efforts to meet the requirements of an assignment, and the instructor can use them to explain evaluations to students.***

Which Blackboard assessment tools utilize rubrics?

- Assignment Tool
- Test Question Types: Essay, Short Answer, and File Response
- Discussion Forums, Blogs, Journals, and Wikis
- Grade Center Columns created for manual entry

Types of rubrics:

- No Points
- Points
- Point Range
- Percentage (can be weighed)
- Percentage Range (can be weighed)

Basic Steps:

1. Create the Blackboard rubric
2. Associate the rubric to the Blackboard assessment
3. Use the rubric to grade the assessment

Rubric Visibility (before and after):

Students can be given access to the rubric at the time the assessment becomes available. This helps organize their efforts to meet the requirements of an assignment.

Basic Writing Assignment Rubric (example):

Criteria and Levels of Achievement	Excellent	Good	Average	Below Expectations	Fails to Meet Expectations
Content	**18 to 20 points** Covers almost all content required. Paper is memorable	**15 to 17 points** Covers most key points and writing is interesting	**11 to 14 points** Covers basic content and writing is understandable	**6 to 10 points** Covers a portion of content and/or contains digressions and errors	**0 to 5 points** Completely off track or did not submit assignment
Argument	**18 to 20 points** Coherent and completely organized	**15 to 17 points** Coherent and reasonably well organized	**11 to 14 points** Fairly coherent	**6 to 10 points** Some confusion and vagueness	**0 to 5 points** missed the point completely
Sources	**18 to 20 points** Sources are cited and are used critically	**15 to 17 points** Sources are cited and some are used critically	**11 to 14 points** Some sources are missing	**6 to 10 points** Sources are not cited	**0 to 5 points** Did not include
Writing	**18 to 20 points** Writing and graphics are nearly error free	**15 to 17 points** A few writing and spelling errors but none that are critical for comprehension	**11 to 14 points** More than a few writing and spelling errors that may impede comprehension	**6 to 10 points** Many careless writing and spelling errors that impede comprehension	**0 to 5 points** Errors are more critical than Below Expectations standard
Graphics and fonts	**18 to 20 points** Easy to read fonts and legible graphics and striking layout	**15 to 17 points** Easy to read fonts and legible graphics	**11 to 14 points** Adequate fonts and graphics but weak execution or content	**6 to 10 points** Tiny fonts and graphics that are difficult to decipher	**0 to 5 points** Errors are more critical than Below Expectations standard

Tip: Always include a column (Level of Achievement) that allows for a zero point value when the student either fails to turn in the assignment or fails to meet expectations for one or more of the criteria.