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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria and Levels of Achievement</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Expectations</th>
<th>Fails to Meet Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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.