

Using Rubrics to Assess Differentiated Learning

Sheree Buikema
Instructional Designer
sbuikema@purdue.edu

Types of Rubrics

The following information is taken from this website as examples of different types of rubrics: <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/holistic-analytic-single-point-rubrics/> Please consult the website for additional information.

Holistic Rubrics

Suppose you're an unusually demanding person. You want your loved ones to know what you expect if they should ever make you breakfast in bed. So you give them this holistic rubric:

Breakfast in Bed: Holistic Rubric

Score	Description
4	All food is perfectly cooked, presentation surpasses expectations, and recipient is kept exceptionally comfortable throughout the meal.
3	Food is cooked correctly, the meal is presented in a clean and well-organized manner, and the recipient is kept comfortable throughout the meal.
2	Some food is cooked poorly, some aspects of presentation are sloppy or unclean, or the recipient is uncomfortable at times.
1	Most of the food is cooked poorly, the presentation is sloppy or unclean, and the recipient is uncomfortable most of the time.

When your breakfast is done, you simply gather your loved ones and say, "I'm sorry my darlings, but that breakfast was just a 2. Try harder next time."

Analytic Rubrics

An **analytic rubric** breaks down the characteristics of an assignment into parts, allowing the scorer to itemize and define exactly what aspects are strong, and which ones need improvement.

So for the breakfast in bed example, an analytic rubric would look like this:

Breakfast in Bed: Analytic Rubric

	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Food	Most food is colder or warmer than it should be, is under- or over-seasoned, or is under- or overcooked.	Some food is colder or warmer than it should be, is under- or over-seasoned, or is under- or overcooked.	All food is at the correct temperature, adequately seasoned, and cooked to the eater's preference.	All food is perfectly cooked and seasoned to the eater's preference. Additional condiments are offered.	
Presentation	More than one item (tray, napkin, or silverware) are dirty or missing.	Tray, napkin or silverware may be dirty or missing.	Food is served on a clean tray, with napkin and silverware. Some decorative additions may be present.	Food is served on a clean tray, with napkin and silverware. Several decorative touches are added.	
Comfort	Wake-up is abrupt, little to no help with seating, and the recipient is rushed and crowded during the meal.	Wake-up is somewhat abrupt, recipient may struggle with seat adjustment, or there may be some rushing or crowding during eating.	Recipient is woken gently, assisted in seat adjustment, and given reasonable time and space to eat.	Recipient is woken gently and lovingly, assisted until seating is just right, and given abundant time and space to eat.	

In this case, you'd give your loved ones a separate score for each category. They might get a 3 on *Presentation*, but a 2 on *Food* and just a 1 on *Comfort*. To make feedback even more targeted, you could also highlight specific phrases in the rubric, like, "the recipient is crowded during the meal" to indicate exactly what went wrong.

So for the breakfast in bed example, an analytic rubric would look like this:

Single-Point Rubrics

A **single-point rubric** is a lot like an analytic rubric, because it breaks down the components of an assignment into different criteria. What makes it different is that it *only describes the criteria for proficiency*; it does not attempt to list all the ways a student could fall short, nor does it specify how a student could exceed expectations.

A single-point rubric for breakfast in bed would look like this:

Breakfast in Bed: Single-Point Rubric

Concerns <i>Areas that Need Work</i>	Criteria <i>Standards for This Performance</i>	Advanced <i>Evidence of Exceeding Standards</i>
	Food: All food is at the correct temperature, adequately seasoned, and cooked to the eater's preference.	
	Presentation: Food is served on a clean tray, with napkin and silverware. Some decorative additions may be present.	
	Comfort: Recipient is woken gently, assisted in seat adjustment, and given reasonable time and space to eat.	

Notice that the language in the “Criteria” column is exactly the same as the “3” column in the analytic rubric. When your loved ones receive this rubric, it will include your written comments on one or both sides of each category, telling them exactly how they fell short (“runny eggs,” for example) and how they excelled (“vase of flowers”). Just like with the analytic rubric, if a target was simply met, you can just highlight the appropriate phrase in the center column.

The following rubric is one of 16 provided through the Association of American Colleges and Universities: <https://www.aacu.org/value/rubrics>