

Grading the Rubric Way

Trying to work our way through a mountain of student papers is just one of the

anything at all on the paper itself. (I usually write broad comments, such as “You have a major problem with subject-verb agreement. Check your sentences for this error.” If a student is not familiar with this error and does not have access to a writing or tutoring service for assistance, there is certainly a plethora of resources on the Internet that can teach grammar or mechanics concepts such as this.)

Of course using a rubric is just one way of approaching the evaluation of writing, but it can be an effective tool. Give it a try and see if it works for you.

Guide to Scoring Student Writing

Grading students' writing can often be an overwhelming task; however, with the use of a scoring rubric, that task can be made much easier. Follow the steps below using the Grading Rubric, and your response to student writing can be effective for the student and simple for you. A rubric with your marks and grade assignment can be completed for each student.

1. Know what you're looking for; have in mind the criteria for judging the papers. (It also helps if the students know those criteria before they write.)
2. Read holistically. In other words, read through the paper without stopping. After you've read the paper, then make any comments you need to make regarding the content of the paper.
3. Comment on content and global issues such as organization and development first. Then address any grammar/mechanics errors you think necessary.
4. Read supportively; try to reward what is done well, rather than search for small errors.
5. Realize that you don't have to mark or identify every error; even more importantly, you do not have to mark anything that a student has written. The writing is the responsibility of the student. You may make a check mark on the

Example 1: Sample Grading Rubric

Merits a Grade of A—Excellent in all areas

Superior ideas and insights; clear and complex; witty or especially original

Purpose clear throughout (unity)

Expectations established and fulfilled very satisfactorily; satisfying closure (organization)

Example 2: Freshman English Rubric

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