

How do we define "Quality Rubrics"?

A Quality Rubric is the result of defining and communicating expectations.

The piece of paper a quality rubric is written or printed on is the product created from the process of articulating expectations of student learning and work. The document itself is the least important part of the process. It enables and supports conversation between assessor and learner, self-reflection by the learner, or peer review by fellow learners.

Quality Rubrics are a way for students to reflect on and then improve their work.

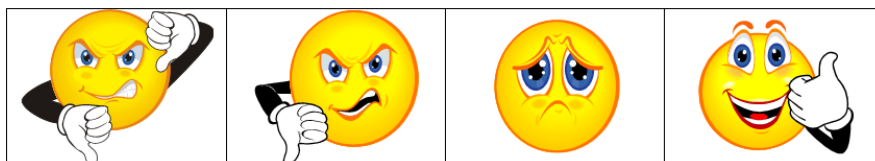
Telling a student what they did wrong doesn't help them do what's right. The language in Quality Rubrics focuses on what is present, not just what is absent. In a Quality Rubric, a student should be able to identify where his work falls and see what he needs to do in order to improve the quality of his work (adding one source won't make your research better unless that source is accurate, high quality, and legitimate). A rubric may be created to support a teacher's grading efforts, save time, or quickly convey feedback. A Quality Rubric is created with students in order to:

- communicate expectations,
- prompt student learning through self-assessment,
- help with grading, save time, and improve feedback.

The goal of a Quality Rubric is NOT to stifle students' creativity or to embarrass a student who hasn't yet obtained mastery.

In a Quality Rubric, the highest level describes what exceeds the standard or expectation and may include language about *transcending rules*, *new*, *innovative*, or *unexpected* approach to task. Meanwhile, the lower levels describe what someone new to a project may do. Although the words may be positive, we may inadvertently force a student out of honestly self-assessing her learning by how we present the lower levels. Consider the implications of seeing your efforts summarized by a smiley face - missing a smile, eyes, and a nose.

What message does this visual communicate to students? Especially one who is new to a task?



Not all rubrics are Quality Rubrics.

We need to be critical consumers of rubrics that are available in the cloud.

Quality Rubrics and grades are like ice cream and Volkswagens.

They're only connected because we chose to connect them. Rubrics are about quality. Grades are about evaluation. They can co-exist without being connected.