



What You Need to Know about Designing Scoring Guides

When students say,
“So what are you looking for?”
what do they really mean?



- What do I have to do in order to get an “A”? Or to pass?
- What components do I need? What do you mean by “detailed”? What do you mean by “creative”? -- ADJECTIVES ARE REALLY IMPORTANT.
- How long does it have to be?
- What “aren’t” you looking for? What “shouldn’t” I do?
- What needs to be there in order to get the grade I want?

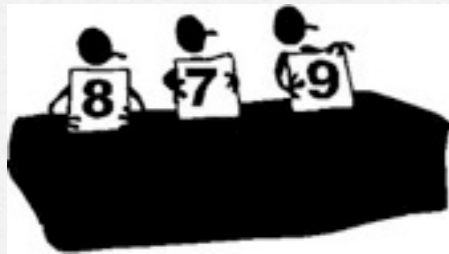


Standard Elements of Good Scoring Guides

- They align the language of the *scoring guide* with the language of the *assignment sheet*.
- They include *quality criteria* that help you distinguish higher-scoring papers from lower-scoring papers.
- They indicate what *expectations* must be met in order for students to earn a particular grade.

Two Kinds of Scoring Guides

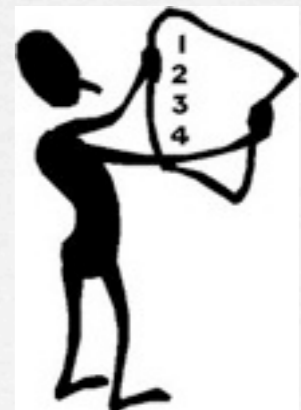
- *Holistic: Assess the work as a whole*



(e.g., An “A” paper includes thoughtful, detailed content. Ideas are well-organized, and few, if any, conventional errors exist....)

- *Analytic: Assess each element of the work separately*

(e.g., A certain number of points is allocated toward content. Another number is allocated toward style, another toward conventions, etc. Sometimes these elements are weighted according to their importance.)



So what will your students want YOU to look for on the culminating assignment for your Yearlong Plan?



- That you have aligned the language of your assignment sheet with the language of the scoring guide in 3 areas:

CONTENT: What does a writer need to say in response to this assignment? What are the required elements?

CRAFT: What must the writer do to say it effectively?

CONVENTIONS: What will it take to make the message clear? What “courtesies of language” should writers observe?

- That you have included *quality criteria*. What distinguishes an “A” from a “B” and so on?

What about comments?

FOR EVERYDAY RESPONSES:

- &• Make "readerly" observations.
- &• Pose questions.
- &• Try non-written feedback (e.g., highlighting)
- &• Give credit for completion.

What about comments?

FOR MAJOR PAPERS/PROJECTS:

- Celebrate
- Reconsider
- Overall evaluation
- Grade