## Constructing Rubrics for Student Papers

"In depth and helpfulness, no method can replace a full-fledged response to a student's paper. Sitting next to a writer and working through a draft, asking questions for clarification, offering reader-based response, or prompting ideas for revision not only models the collaborative processes that writers experience in countless professional settings, but also gives students the language and intellectual framework for responding to their own and other writers' work. What we "value" in good writing for a

## Sample Rubrics and Rubric Activities

- Designing a rubric as a class
  Assign students a handout reading for homework that explains their next project or paper.
  Set aside class time during the next class session.
  Ask students to get into four groups (you can place them into groups, f.

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novel, sophisticated, insightful, crystal clear. Connects well with paper title.	slightly unclear, or lacking in insight or originality. Paper title does not connect as well with thesis or is not as interesting.	May be unclear (contain many vague terms), appear unoriginal, or offer relatively little that is new; provides little around which to structure the paper. Paper title and thesis do not connect well or title is unimaginative.	Difficult to identify at all, may be bland restatement of obvious point.
appropriate for thesis. Excellent transitions from point to point. Paragraphs support solid topic sentences.	appropriate, though may wander occasionally. May have a few unclear transitions, or a few paragraphs without	Generally unclear, often wanders or jumps around. Few or weak transitions, many paragraphs without topic sentences.	Unclear, often because thesis is weak or non-existent. Transitions confusing and unclear. Few topic sentences.
to "mini-thesis" (topic sentence); analysis is fresh and exciting, posing new ways to think of the material. Work displays critical thinking and	to mini-thesis, though		
	novel, sophisticated, insightful, crystal clear. Connects well with paper title. Evident, understandable, appropriate for thesis. Excellent transitions from point to point. Paragraphs support solid topic sentences. Author clearly relates evidence to "mini-thesis" (topic sentence); analysis is fresh and exciting, posing new ways to think of the material. Work displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or	Easily identifiable, plausible, novel, sophisticated, insightful, slightly unclear, or lacking in insight or originality. Paper title does not connect as well with thesis or is not as interesting.    Promising, but may be novel, sophisticated, insightful, slightly unclear, or lacking in insight or originality. Paper title does not connect as well with thesis or is not as interesting.      Evident, understandable, appropriate for thesis.    Generally clear and appropriate, though may wander occasionally. May have a few unclear transitions, or a few paragraphs without strong topic sentences.      Author clearly relates evidence to "mini-thesis" (topic sentence); analysis is fresh and exciting, posing new ways to think of the material. Work displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or    Evidence often related to mini-thesis, though	Easily identifiable, plausible, novel, sophisticated, insightful, slightly uclear, or lacking in insight or originality. Paper title does not connect as well with thesis or is not as interesting.May be unclear (contain many vague terms), appear unoriginal, or offer relatively little that is new; provides little around which to structure the paper. Paper title and thesis do not connect well or title is unimaginative.Evident, understandable, appropriate for thesis. Excellent transitions from point to point. Paragraphs support solid topic sentences.Generally clear and appropriate, though may wander occasionally. May have margraphs without strong topic sentences.Generally clear and appropriate, though may wander occasionally. May have many paragraphs without strong topic sentences.Author clearly relates evidence to "mini-thesis" (topic sentence); analysis is fresh and exciting, posing new ways to think of the material. Work displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description orEvidence often related to mini-thesis, though supports of thinking and avoids simplistic description or

## Portfolio assignment simple rubric example



