

Using Student-Friendly Rubrics & Scoring Student Samples

This is a sample generic activity for using rubrics with students. You may choose to use your rubrics in a different way or modify this activity. This is just one possibility.

1. Share 2 different samples (one strong and one weak). Ask students to tell you which one they liked best and why. Explain that today you're going to practice scoring samples of other people's work for this particular subject.
2. Give students a copy of the rubric and ask them to identify important criteria or descriptors that really stand out. Discuss, "What is significant?" Help them to realize the different performance levels of these descriptors.
3. After students are familiar with the rubric, ask them to score one of the samples individually. (It may be as simple as pointing to or writing down the score they would give it.)
4. Next, have them visit with a partner and discuss the score they chose. See if they can come to an agreement.
5. Working with the whole group, discuss the scores they would give the sample. (You might ask and record, "How many would give it a 1, 2, 3, etc.") Discuss this as a class and ask students to defend or explain their reason for the score they chose. As they discuss it, encourage them to use the words on the rubric to explain their thoughts. Try to come to consensus as a class.
6. Repeat this with the second sample.

Follow-up Option: You can even ask them what they'd change about the weak sample and actually have them change it individually or as a class (on the overhead). You may also choose to just discuss the changes orally.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

The discussion is more important than the score you put on it!