

OFFICE OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND WORLD LANGUAGES NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

http://www.nysed.gov/world-languages



How to Use the NYS World Language Learning Standards Rubrics Modern Languages

The Master Rubrics

The master rubrics for each of the five NYS Learning Standards for World Languages are designed with two primary goals in mind: (1) to give teachers a basic structure from which to create rubrics customized to a given proficiency target and performance task, and (2) to provide learners feedback on their standards-based performances and proficiency development. Each master rubric consists of one or more dimensions associated with the given standard. Dimensions are elaborated with a learner-friendly question and subsequently described for each proficiency target using an "I Can" statement.

Customizing the Rubrics

The master rubrics are analytic rubrics. Teachers may choose to use the master rubrics as they are presented; they may extract descriptors specific to a contiguous set of proficiency targets to create three- or four-point rubrics or a single proficiency target to create single-point rubrics; or they may aggregate the descriptors associated with a given proficiency target to create holistic rubrics. With the exception of holistic rubrics, student work is evaluated separately on each dimension. With holistic rubrics, student work is assigned a single score, similar to the Advanced Placement (AP) Exam task evaluation. Teachers should choose the rubric type appropriate for the performance task, the needs of learners, and the type of feedback desired.

To customize the rubrics, teachers can copy and paste the descriptors from the master rubrics directly into four-point, three-point, or single-point rubrics designed to provide learners with feedback on specific performance tasks. *Areas shaded in gray in the master rubrics represent dimensions that do not need to be assessed at the indicated proficiency target*. Teachers may also choose to add task-specific dimensions to rubrics. In addition, teachers can replace generic language in a descriptor with task-specific characteristics to give learners additional guidance and feedback in assessing their performance.

Four-Point Rubrics

A four-point rubric usually has columns describing four levels of performance: the proficiency target, two levels below and one level above. For example, for a class with a proficiency target of Intermediate Low, the four columns represented would be Novice Mid, Novice High, Intermediate Low (target) and Intermediate Mid (above target). These columns can be labeled Emerging, Developing, Meets Expectations, and Exceeds Expectations. An advantage of the four-point rubric is that it gives specific feedback on each evaluated dimension and offers a description of a performance that exceeds expectations to encourage risk-taking, goal setting, and leveling up.

Three-Point Rubrics

A three-point rubric usually has columns describing three levels of performance: the proficiency target, one level below and one level above. For example, for a class with a proficiency target of Intermediate Low, the three columns represented would be Novice High, Intermediate Low and Intermediate Mid. These columns can be labeled Developing, Meets Expectations, and Exceeds Expectation. One advantage of using a three-point rubric is that it provides feedback for each dimension. A disadvantage with the three-point rubric is that it can be a temptation to "split the difference" when evaluating a learner's performance to avoid giving the lowest of the three scores.

Single Point Rubrics

In single-point rubrics, only the descriptors for a performance that matches the proficiency target are provided. This can help learners focus on what is expected by presenting only one set of descriptors specific to a proficiency target of the task. The \blacktriangle (delta) column allows the teacher to write feedback if the student has not met the target for that dimension in order to help the student make improvements. (The Greek letter \blacktriangle (delta) is used in the sciences to refer to change. Feedback in the delta column offers suggestions for what the student can change.) The + (plus) column allows the teacher to point out ways the student has exceeded the targeted level of performance or to give feedback to help the student "level up" in future tasks.

Converting to Grades

The goal of the rubrics is to provide specific feedback to learners on how their performance measures up to the current proficiency target. Additional feedback can be provided by the teacher in the form of "Delta/Plus" \blacktriangle /+) comments, or by additional columns of descriptors in three- or four-point rubrics.

That being said, in most educational settings, there is a need to assign a numerical or letter equivalent grade to align with school reporting formats. The Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages at the NYS Education Department does not recommend a single solution to this issue. *The equivalency of learner performance and numerical or letter grading is a local decision.*

Reference List of Source Rubrics

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Standard 1: Interpretive Communication

Standard 1 - Interpretive Communication: Learners **understand**, **interpret**, and **analyze** what is **heard**, **received**, or **viewed** on a variety of topics, using a range of diverse texts, including authentic resources.

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 1-2)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid Checkpoint C: Intermediate Mid - Intermediate High

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 3-4)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Novice High - Intermediate Low Checkpoint C: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid

Dimensions	NOVICE MID	NOVICE HIGH	INTERMEDIATE LOW	INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE HIGH
	l can	l can	l can	I can	I can
Understanding - What can I	identify some isolated	identify the topic and	identify the topic and	identify the main idea	identify the main idea
understand?	facts from a short print	some isolated facts	related details from a	and some supporting	and many supporting
	text, sound clip, video	from a short print text,	short print text, sound	details from a short,	details from a print
	or image about a very	sound clip, video, or	clip, video, or image on	straightforward print	text, sound clip, video
	familiar topic using	image on a familiar	a familiar topic.	text, sound clip, video,	or image on a mostly
	visual support when	topic.		or image on a mostly	familiar topic written in
	present.			familiar topic.	various time frames.
Vocabulary - What words can I	identify words I've	identify words and	identify words and	identify words and	identify words and
recognize and make meaning	learned and some	phrases I've learned	phrases I've learned,	phrases I've learned,	phrases I've learned,
from?	cognates using visual	and some cognates.	determine the meaning	determine the meaning	determine the meaning
	supports when		of most cognates, and	of cognates, and infer	of cognates, and infer
	present.		infer the meaning of	the meaning of several	the meaning of most
			some unfamiliar words	unfamiliar words in	unfamiliar words in
			in context.	context.	context.
Communicator's Purpose - How				make some inferences	make inferences about
well can I infer the				about the intent of the	the intent of the
communicator's intent?				communicator's	communicator's
				choices (e.g., word,	choices (e.g., word,
				content).	content).
Text Organization - How well				make some inferences	make inferences about
can I infer the organization and				about the organization	the organization and
presentation of the text?				and presentation of a	presentation of a print
				print text, sound clip,	text, sound clip, video,
				video, or image.	or image.

Standard 2: Interpersonal Communication

Standard 2 - Interpersonal Communication: Learners interact and negotiate meaning in spontaneous, **spoken**, **visual**, or **written** communication **to exchange information** and **express feelings**, **preferences**, and **opinions**.

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 1-2)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid Checkpoint C: Intermediate Mid - Intermediate High

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 3-4)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High
Checkpoint B: Novice High - Intermediate Low
Checkpoint C: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid

Dimensions	NOVICE MID	NOVICE HIGH	INTERMEDIATE LOW	INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE HIGH
	I can	I can	I can	I can	I can
Communication – How well do I fulfill the purpose for communication?	complete the task using the targeted language function.	complete the task using the targeted language function.	complete the task using the targeted language function(s).	complete the task using the targeted language function(s).	complete the task using the targeted language function(s).
Discourse Type - What language do I use?	use single words, short phrases.	use simple sentences and ask some simple questions.	consistently use complete sentences and ask questions.	consistently use complete sentences and strings of sentences with elaboration. I ask follow-up questions.	consistently use strings of complete sentences with attempts to connect and organize the sentences. I ask follow-up questions.
Vocabulary - What words can I use to communicate?	use memorized words and formulaic phrases.	use short formulaic expressions and high-frequency vocabulary words.	use familiar vocabulary and sometimes use circumlocution when I am missing a needed word.	use a variety of vocabulary and use circumlocution when necessary.	use a wide variety of general and some specific vocabulary.
Expression - How do I express myself?	respond to questions.	sometimes express original ideas; and consistently respond and react in conversations. I sometimes ask questions and initiate the conversation.	express original ideas and respond and react in conversations. I ask questions and initiate the conversation with partial control of present time.	express original ideas on familiar topics in conversations. I ask a variety of questions and maintain the conversation with full control of present time.	express original ideas on familiar and researched topics in conversations. I ask a wide variety of questions and maintain the conversation with partial control of past, present, and future time. I sometimes handle complications.
Comprehensibility - How well am I understood?	be understood with effort by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., attempt pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	usually be understood by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be understood with some effort by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners. (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be easily understood by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be usually understood by all speakers of the language with only an occasional breakdown in comprehension (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).

Dimensions	NOVICE MID	NOVICE HIGH	INTERMEDIATE LOW	INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE HIGH
	I can	I can	I can	I can	I can
Control - How	be accurate with	be accurate with	be accurate with original	be accurate with original	be mostly accurate with
accurately is my	language chunks I have	memorized language,	complete sentences in	complete sentences and	original paragraphs in
message	memorized.	but my accuracy	present time.	strings of sentences in	the past, present, and
communicated?		decreases when I		the present, but my	future times.
		express original ideas in		accuracy decreases	
		complete sentences.		when I use other time	
				frames.	
Understanding - Do I	understand single words	understand some simple	understand questions	understand questions	understand the main
understand what others	and short phrases. I	questions and	and statements. I	and statements in	idea and most details in
communicate to me?	frequently need to have	statements. I sometimes	sometimes to have	conversations.	conversations.
	messages repeated.	need to have messages	messages repeated.		
		repeated.			

Standard 3: Presentational Communication

Standard 3 - Presentational Communication: Learners present information and ideas on a variety of topics adapted to various **audiences of listeners**, **readers**, or **viewers** to **describe**, **inform**, **narrate**, **explain**, or **persuade**.

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 1-2)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid

Checkpoint C: Intermediate Mid - Intermediate High

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 3-4)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Novice High - Intermediate Low

Checkpoint C: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid

Dimensions	NOVICE MID	NOVICE HIGH	INTERMEDIATE LOW	INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE HIGH
	I can	I can	I can	I can	I can
do I achieve the purpose for communication? Discourse Type - What	the targeted language function. use single words,	complete the task using the targeted language function. use sentences made up	complete the task using the targeted language function(s).	complete the task using the targeted language function(s).	complete the task using the targeted language function(s). consistently use strings
language do I use?	memorized phrases.	of memorized words.	complete sentences.	complete sentences and strings of sentences with elaboration.	of sentences and frequently use paragraphs.
Vocabulary - What words can I use to communicate?	use memorized words and formulaic phrases.	use short formulaic expressions and high-frequency vocabulary words.	use familiar vocabulary and sometimes use circumlocution when I am missing a needed word.	use a variety of vocabulary and use circumlocution when necessary.	use a wide variety of general and some specific vocabulary.
Comprehensibility - How well am I understood?	be understood with effort by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., attempt pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	usually be understood by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be understood with some effort by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be easily understood by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be usually understood by all speakers of the language with only an occasional breakdown in comprehensibility (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).
Control - How accurately is my message communicated?	be accurate with language chunks I have memorized.	be accurate with memorized language, but my accuracy decreases when I express original ideas in complete sentences.	be accurate with original complete sentences in present time.	be accurate with original complete sentences and strings of sentences in the present, but my accuracy decreases when I use other time frames.	be mostly accurate with original paragraphs in the past, present, and future times.
Organization - How do I organize my ideas?		attempt to organize ideas by time or sequence of events.	organize ideas by time or sequence of events.	mostly organize ideas in a logical sequence, although the beginning or ending may be incomplete.	organize and connect ideas in a logical sequence with a clear beginning, middle and end.

Standard 4: Relating Cultural Practices and Products to Perspectives*

Standard 4 - Relating Cultural Practices and Products to Perspectives: Learners use the target language to **identify, describe,** and **explain** the practices and products of the cultures studied as well as the cultural perspectives they suggest.

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 1-2)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid

Checkpoint C: Intermediate Mid - Intermediate High

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 3-4)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Novice High - Intermediate Low

Checkpoint C: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid

Dimensions	NOVICE MID	NOVICE HIGH	INTERMEDIATE LOW	INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE HIGH
	I can	I can	I can	I can	I can
Cultural Products and Practices	identify cultural	identify cultural	describe cultural	describe cultural	describe cultural
- What cultural products and/or practices can I identify, describe, or explain?	products and practices.	products and practices and attempt to describe them.	products and practices.	products and practices.	products and practices and attempt to explain them.
Cultural Perspectives – What cultural perspectives can I identify, describe, or explain?	identify a cultural perspective with assistance.	identify a cultural perspective and attempt to describe it.	describe a cultural perspective.	describe a cultural perspective.	describe a cultural perspective and attempt to explain it.

^{*} The dimensions from the rubric for Standard 4 can be added to the one-point or four-point evaluation rubric for any communicative performance task for Standards 1, 2 or 3 that allow teachers to assess also for cultural practices, products, and perspectives. The descriptors can simply be copied into the rubric designed for the performance task.

Standard 5: Cultural Comparisons*

Standard 5 - Cultural Comparisons: Learners use the target language to compare the products and practices of the cultures studied and their own.

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 1-2)

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint A: Novice Mid - Novice High

Checkpoint B: Novice High - Intermediate Low

Checkpoint B: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid Checkpoint C: Intermediate Mid - Intermediate High

Checkpoint C: Intermediate Low - Intermediate Mid

Proficiency Ranges for Modern Languages (Category 3-4)

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Dimensions	NOVICE MID	NOVICE HIGH	INTERMEDIATE LOW	INTERMEDIATE MID	INTERMEDIATE HIGH	
	I can	I can	I can	I can	I can	
Cultural Comparisons – What	identify simple	identify simple	describe similarities	describe similarities	describe similarities	
cultural comparisons can I	comparisons between	comparisons between	and differences	and differences	and differences	
identify, describe, or explain?	products and practices	products and practices	between products and	between products and	between products and	
	of a target culture and	of a target culture and	practices of a target	practices of a target	practices of a target	
	my own.	my own and attempt to	culture and my own.	culture and my own.	culture and my own	
		describe them.			and attempt to explain	
					them.	

^{*} The dimensions from the rubric for Standard 5 can be added to the one-point or four-point evaluation rubric for any communicative performance task for Standards 1, 2 or 3 that allow teachers to assess also for cultural comparisons. This descriptor can simply be copied into the rubric designed for the performance task.

Sample Four-Point Rubric (Category 1-2 Languages)

Course: Checkpoint B - Year 1 (Level 2) Performance Target: Intermediate Low

Standard 2: Interpersonal Communication

Standard 4: Cultural Products, Practices & Perspectives

Can Do Statements: I can make, accept, and politely refuse invitations. I can make excuses.

Task: You and your partner have very busy schedules and lots of interests. You want to get together sometime this weekend. Discuss your weekend plans. Try to find a time you can do something together.

Dimensions	Emerging (1) Novice Mid	Developing (2) Novice High	Meets Expectation (3) Intermediate Low	Exceeds Expectation (4) Intermediate Mid
	I can	I can	I can	I can
Communication – How well do I fulfill the purpose for communication?	attempt to complete the task with some attention to the targeted language function(s).	mostly complete the task with attention to the targeted language functions(s).	complete the task using the targeted language function(s).	complete and expand on the task using the targeted language function(s).
Discourse Type - What language do I use?	use single words, short phrases.	use simple sentences and ask some simple questions.	consistently use complete sentences and ask questions.	consistently use complete sentences and strings of sentences with elaboration. I ask follow-up questions.
Vocabulary - What words can I use to communicate?	use memorized words and formulaic phrases.	use short formulaic expressions and high-frequency vocabulary words.	use familiar vocabulary and sometimes use circumlocution when I am missing a needed word.	use a variety of vocabulary and use circumlocution when necessary.
Expression - How do I express myself?	respond to questions.	sometimes express original ideas; and consistently respond and react in conversations. I sometimes ask questions and initiate the conversation.	express original ideas and respond and react in conversations. I ask questions and initiate the conversation with partial control of present time.	express original ideas on familiar topics in conversations. I ask a variety of questions and maintain the conversation with full control of present time.
Comprehensibility - How well am I understood?	be understood with effort by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., attempt pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	usually be understood by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be understood with some effort by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be easily understood by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).

Dimensions	Emerging (1) Novice Mid	Developing (2) Novice High	Meets Expectation (3) Intermediate Low	Exceeds Expectation (4) Intermediate Mid
	I can	I can	I can	I can
Control - How accurately is my message	be accurate with language	be accurate with memorized	be accurate with original	be accurate with original
communicated?	chunks I have memorized.	language, but my accuracy	complete sentences in present	complete sentences and
		decreases when I express	time.	strings of sentences in
		original ideas in complete		the present, but my
		sentences.		accuracy decreases
				when I use other time
				frames.
Understanding - Do I understand what	understand single words and	understand some simple	understand questions and	understand questions
others communicate to me?	short phrases. I frequently	questions and statements. I	statements. I sometimes to	and statements in
	need to have messages	sometimes need to have	have messages repeated.	conversations.
	repeated.	messages repeated.		
Cultural Products and Practices – What	identify cultural products and	identify cultural products and	describe cultural products and	describe cultural
cultural products and/or practices can I	practices.	practice and attempt to	practices.	products and practices.
identify, describe, or explain?		describe them.		

Sample Three-Point Rubric (Category 3-4 Languages)

Course: Checkpoint B - Year 2 (Level 3) Performance Target: Intermediate Low

Standard 2: Interpersonal Communication

Standard 4: Cultural Products, Practices & Perspectives

Can Do Statements: I can make, accept, and politely refuse invitations. I can make excuses.

Task: You and your partner have very busy schedules and lots of interests. You want to get together sometime this weekend. Discuss your weekend plans. Try to find a time you can do something together.

Dimensions	Developing (1) Novice High	Meets Expectation (2) Intermediate Low	Exceeds Expectation (3) Intermediate Mid
	I can	I can	I can
Communication – How well do I fulfill the purpose for communication?	mostly complete the task with attention to the targeted language functions(s).	complete the task using the targeted language function(s).	complete and expand on the task using the targeted language function(s).
Discourse Type - What language do I use?	use simple sentences and ask some simple questions.	consistently use complete sentences and ask questions.	consistently use complete sentences and strings of sentences with elaboration. I ask follow-up questions.
Vocabulary - What words can I use to communicate?	use short formulaic expressions and high-frequency vocabulary words.	use familiar vocabulary and sometimes use circumlocution when I am missing a needed word.	use a variety of vocabulary and use circumlocution when necessary.
Expression - How do I express myself?	sometimes express original ideas; and consistently respond and react in conversations. I sometimes ask questions and initiate the conversation.	express original ideas and respond and react in conversations. I ask questions and initiate the conversation with partial control of present time.	express original ideas on familiar topics in conversations. I ask a variety of questions and maintain the conversation with full control of present time.
Comprehensibility - How well am I understood?	usually be understood by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be understood with some effort by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	be easily understood by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).
Control - How accurately is my message communicated?	be accurate with memorized language, but my accuracy decreases when I express original ideas in complete sentences.	be accurate with original complete sentences in present time.	be accurate with original complete sentences and strings of sentences in the present, but my accuracy decreases when I use other time frames.
Understanding - Do I understand what others communicate to me?	understand some simple questions and statements. I sometimes need to have messages repeated.	understand questions and statements. I sometimes to have messages repeated.	understand questions and statements in conversations.
Cultural Products and Practices – What cultural products and/or practices can I identify, describe, or explain?	identify cultural products and practice and attempt to describe them.	describe cultural products and practices.	describe cultural products and practices.

Sample Rubrics based on the Master NYS World Language Learning Standards Rubrics

Sample Single-Point Rubric (Category 1-2 Languages)

Course: Checkpoint B - Level 2 Performance Target: Intermediate Low

Standard 3: Presentational Communication

Standard 4: Relating Cultural Practices and Products to Perspectives

Can-Do Statement: I can describe weekend plans.

Task: Create a comic strip in which characters from (TL country) describe their plans for the weekend.

	▲ Suggestions for growth	Meets Expectations for Intermediate Low I can	+ Evidence of "leveling up"
Communication – How well do I achieve the purpose for communication?		complete the task using the targeted language function(s).	
Discourse Type - What language do I use?		consistently use complete sentences.	
Vocabulary - What words can I use to communicate?		use familiar vocabulary and sometimes use circumlocution when I am missing a needed word.	
Comprehensibility - How well am I understood?		be understood with some effort by those accustomed to communicating with developing language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	
Control - How accurately is my message communicated?		be accurate with original complete sentences in present time.	
Organization - How do I organize my ideas?		organize ideas by time or sequence of events.	
Cultural Products and Practices – What cultural products and/or practices can I identify, describe, or explain?		describe cultural products and practices.	

Sample Single-Point Rubric (Category 1 & 2 or Category 3 & 4 Languages)

Course: Checkpoint A - Year 2 (Grade 8) Performance Target: Novice High

Standard 2: Interpersonal Communication

Standard 4: Cultural Products, Practices and Perspectives

Can Do Statement: I can express preferences and opinions about traditional dishes in the Francophone world.

Task: Have a conversation with your classmate about which traditional dishes you would and would not order from menus from restaurant menus from several Francophone countries. Decide which restaurant you would most like to go to.

	▲ Meets Expectations for Novice High I can	+
Communication – How well do I fulfill the purpose for communication? *	complete the task using the targeted language function.	
Discourse Type - What language do I use?	use simple sentences and ask some simple questions.	
Vocabulary - What words can I use to communicate?	use short formulaic expressions and high-frequency vocabulary words	
Expression - How do I express myself?	sometimes express original ideas; and consistently respond and react in conversations. I sometimes ask questions and initiate the conversation.	
Comprehensibility - How well am I understood?	usually be understood by someone used to communicating with novice language learners (e.g., pronunciation, signing, spelling, accentuation).	
Control - How accurately is my message communicated?	be accurate with memorized language, but my accuracy decreases when I express original ideas in complete sentences.	
Understanding - Do I understand what others communicate to me?	understand some simple questions and statements. I sometimes need to have messages repeated.	
Cultural Products and Practices – What cultural products and/or practices can I identify, describe, or explain?	identify cultural products and practice and attempt to describe them.	