

The Practical Professor

No. 21

Quick and easy tips, questions, and suggestions for improving teaching and learning.

The Single-Point Rubric

Teaching Tip Series #6

The more complicated a grading rubric is, the less likely students are to read it and the more work it will be for you to use. In the spirit of Transparent Assignments (see *The Practical Professor* No. 17) and Zero-Based Evaluation (see *The Practical Professor* No. 18), this teaching tip is a way to *focus your grading* (and thus your students' attention) clearly and specifically *on the learning outcomes of your course or assignment*. It's called the **Single-Point Rubric**.

Here's what it would look like if we were grading a breakfast in bed project:

Breakfast in Bed: Single-Point Rubric

Concerns <i>Areas that Need Work</i>	Criteria <i>Standards for This Performance</i>	Advanced <i>Evidence of Exceeding Standards</i>
	Food: All food is at the correct temperature, adequately seasoned, and cooked to the eater's preference.	
	Presentation: Food is served on a clean tray, with napkin and silverware. Some decorative additions may be present.	
	Comfort: Recipient is woken gently, assisted in seat adjustment, and given reasonable time and space to eat.	

SOURCE: <http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/holistic-analytic-single-point-rubrics/>

A Single-Point Rubric...

- Only lists the criteria for **proficiency**. Either students meet that proficiency, or they do not. This is clear, direct feedback about progress toward outcomes.
- Columns for "Needs Work" and "Excellence" are left blank so that the instructor can *tailor this feedback specifically to the ways in which an individual student is struggling or excelling*. This is specific, directed feedback about ways to improve.

In the next *The Practical Professor*: Reflective Practice Series #6

Also available!

Teaching

A series of practical and innovative teaching tips for college faculty

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The Top 10...

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Back issues of *The Teaching Top 10* and *The Practical Professor* can be found here:

<http://gwcc.libguides.com/c.php?g=57736&p=709634>