

*** EPISODE 4** reveals how to build or start up an initial writing rubric with students.

EPISODE 7 addresses how to add criteria, adapt the rubric for different writing units, and convert scores to grades.

Scores multiple facets or traits, giving each a separate score.

Includes only skills previously taught and practiced.

A tool that measures the quality of a piece of writing.

Analytic Instructional Rubric

- The rubric starts with minimal criteria and grows as students learn more writing skills.
- Criteria is cumulative, keeping all skills relevant— not just the newest ones.
- Grading expectations increase with each rubric update— teach more; expect more.
- The rubric evolves to align with state tests & end-course assessments.

WHEN TO UPDATE CRITERIA

- Provide students ample time to practice a new writing skill before adding it to the rubric.
- Update the rubric once a month OR after 3-5 new skills have been taught and practiced OR as you wrap up a unit.
- Replace today's whole-class mini-lesson with a 15-minute rubric-update lesson.

WHERE TO ADD NEW CRITERIA

UPDATE A PAPER RUBRIC.
Cut apart the current rubric and tape in paper to make space for the new criteria while keeping related skills within the same row.



UPDATE A DIGITAL RUBRIC.
Identify the trait or row the skill falls under and insert a new bullet with the criteria.



HOW TO WRITE NEW CRITERIA

CONDUCT A RUBRIC-UPDATE LESSON.

1. Identify skills recently taught and practiced that are missing from the current rubric.
2. Quickly review students' understanding of each skill.
3. Capture their descriptions within a new bullet under the highest level.
4. Guide student to create parallel criteria in all levels.
5. Repeat this process with all classes/sections.
6. Present the updated rubric the next day.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
• Rarely/Never provides		• Occasionally provides		• Frequently provides
• Basic verbs (e.g., went, got sick, took, made)		• Typical verbs (e.g., run, felt sick, stole, cooked)		• Strong verbs (e.g., dashed, contracted, snatched, prepared)
• Includes none • Includes neither		• Includes some • Includes one		• Includes all • Includes both

Consider how to apply the same growing rubric to all writing units.

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
IDEAS	Ideas are mentioned, but not developed. NARRATIVE = Hints at a problem OR solution. INFORMATIVE = Includes FEW/NO details for the main ideas. ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE = Includes 1-2 reasons with LITTLE/NO evidence/examples.		Some ideas are developed with details. NARRATIVE = Hints at a problem AND a solution. INFORMATIVE = Includes SOME details FOR EACH main idea. ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE = Includes 2-3 reasons with SOME evidence/examples.		Ideas are well developed with supporting details. NARRATIVE = CLEAR problem and REASONABLE solution. INFORMATIVE = Includes MANY details FOR EACH main idea. ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE = Includes 3+ CLEAR reasons with SPECIFIC evidence/examples.
ORGANIZATION	Ideas are not organized. NARRATIVE = FEW/NO details follow a chronological order. INFORMATIVE = Similar information is NOT GROUPED together. ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE = Reasons listed have NO clear order.		Ideas are somewhat organized. NARRATIVE = Most details are in chronological order. INFORMATIVE = Similar information is SOMETIMES grouped together. ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE = Reasons are organized in a typical order.		Ideas are organized logically. NARRATIVE = The details follow a chronological order. INFORMATIVE = Similar info is grouped together throughout the WHOLE PIECE. ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE = Reasons are organized to maximize impact.



DISCUSSION POINTS

What have you tried since viewing Episode 4? **SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES** with building kid-friendly rubrics with your students.

Discuss the option of adapting the **SAME GROWING RUBRIC** for all units. What are potential **PROS AND CONS** to doing this?

Review the **PROCESS FOR CONVERTING** rubric scores to grades. Discuss the **THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES**. What was new to you?



NEXT STEPS

BABY STEP: Using any rubric, execute Steps 1-3 below to determine the value of each cell.

BIGGER STEP: Identify 2-3 recently-taught skills. Guide students through a rubric update.

CALCULATE GRADES & POINTS

GUIDING PRINCIPLE #1— The lowest rubric level is not failure; it's just barely passing.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE #2— The highest level is exceeding expectations (A+). The second-highest level is the A.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE #3— Rubric categories aren't equal. Value some traits more than the others, depending on the assignment.

*** DON'T ADD LEVELS!**
Levels are NOT points.

STEP 1: Determine which traits to assess.

STEP 3: Determine the point value per cell— **Highest point value** for that row (Level 5) **X Grading percentage** for each level/ column.

	D- 60%	C 75%	B 85%	A 95%	A+ 100%
	Level 1 SINGLE	Level 2 DOUBLE	Level 3 TRIPLE	Level 4 HOME RUN	Level 5 GRAND SLAM
IDEAS	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 15 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 19 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 21 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 24 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 25 pts.
ORGANIZATION	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 9 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 11 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 13 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 14 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 15 pts.
CONVENTIONS	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 6 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 7 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 8 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 9 pts.	- Specific skill - Specific skill - Specific skill 10 pts.

STEP 4: After assessing a student's writing for the rubric criteria, tally the points earned per cell.

STEP 2: Assign a total point value to each trait.

50 pts. possible

Rubric Calculator					
Name: John Smith Assignment: Persuasive Report					
IDEAS	1	2	3	4	5
ORGANIZATION	1	2	3	4	5
CONVENTIONS	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

Access the **Rubric Calculator**.