



March: Rubrics: What does a good one look like?

Developing a shared understanding of assessments – using rubrics, peer assessment and exemplars

Conceptions of course assessments can range from being perfectly understandable for the teacher to impenetrable for the students. Teachers have a tacit understanding ([Rust et al. 2003](#)) of what they are looking for from an assessment and of what an excellent, good or poor assessment looks like but students don't necessarily have the same conception. For students to have a fair go at a course assessment we need to bridge the gap between the teacher's and the students' understanding of what they need to do. This may sound straight forward but research and experience shows it is a more complex situation. That's where a combination of rubrics, exemplars and peer review can help students and teachers develop a shared understanding of assessment.

Rubrics are matrices which match each assessment criterion with each of the possible grades; most importantly, rubrics provide individual descriptions of the standard required for each grade. If rubrics are co-developed or deconstructed with students these criteria descriptions can unlock understanding about how to achieve different grades ([Andrade, 2005](#))

However rubrics alone are not enough, they only articulate the standards, students need to grasp 'what a good one looks like'. This insight is provided by exemplars. By giving students examples of previous assessments from the same course to peer assess using the rubric, we can help them see what we are looking for ([Sadler, 2009](#)). The peer assessment process is another recommended approach as peer dialogue can be more accessible for learners than teacher-peer dialogue ([Falchikov in Boud and Falchikov etd. 2007](#) available at SDUB).

Support for Developing Rubrics

- See an [example of how an SDU tutor developed a rubric and access further rubrics support](#)
- See an example of [how to involve students in developing rubrics](#)
- Access Blackboard's rubric tool [guidance here](#) (search for "rubrics")

News

CUU courses

You are welcome to contact Donna for guidance and support on rubrics, peer assessment and exemplars. A CUU course can also be arranged for groups of 5 or more.

Interested in e-learning and online education?

The Centre for Teaching and Learning and Videnregion Syddanmark Schleswig-Holstein have arranged a course for all teachers in the 7 partnering institutions who are interested in e-learning, online education and the role as an online lecturer. You will learn more about how to set up an online course programme and have time to network with participants from the other institutions.

The course is divided into 6 modules from 20th October 2014 to 28th February 2015 and is in English. Deadline for sign-up: 31st August 2014. [Read more here.](#)



Responsible for this newsletter:

Donna Hurford
2117 7861
dhu@sdu.dk

Centre for Teaching and Learning
Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M
Entrance H by the
SDU Swimming Pool [Directory](#)