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PBL@WHS

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Project-Based Learning at Wheaton High School

"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives"

--Robert John Meehan

Anatomy of a Single-Point Rubric

criteria for proficient performance in center column

positive feedback in right column

constructive feedback in left column

Breakfast in Bed

Concerns *Areas that Need Work*	Criteria *Standards for This Performance*	Advanced *Evidence of Exceeding Standards*
	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.	

PBL SKill

Rubrics: *Your rubric is a hot mess; here's how to fix it*

If you're like most teachers, you rely on densely packed analytic rubrics to assess student work. But creating these rubrics – trying to imagine every possible scenario that will result in an assignment being labeled as a 1, 2, 3 or 4, or whatever terminology might stand for those numbers – can be both soul-crushing and time-consuming. Then, when it comes time to assess student work, you're likely to find many assignments that don't fit neatly into any one column. What's worse, others demonstrate qualities you didn't even anticipate, like the student who spelled everything perfectly but was lax on punctuation. Your "mechanics" section doesn't have a place for that.
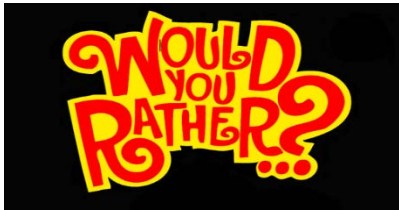
Might there be a better way? The answer is yes, and its name is the single-point rubric.
Instead of detailing all the different ways an assignment deviates from the target, the single-point rubric simply *describes the target*, using a single column of traits. It's what you'd find at level 3 on a 4-point scale, the "proficient" column, except now it's all by itself. On either side of that column, there's space for the teacher to write feedback about the specific things this student did that either fell short of the target (the left side) or surpassed it (the right).

For some, this alternative might cause apprehension: does this mean more writing for the teacher? Possibly. If you've only ever used rubrics to highlight key features of a student's work to justify their score, or worse, simply given the score without pointing to the language that made the difference, then the single-point rubric will require more from you. But when I used analytic rubrics, I ended up having to do a bunch of writing anyway, squeezing my comments into the cells to provide more specific feedback, or adding a long note at the end summarizing the factors that influenced the score. With a single-point rubric, the farce of searching for the right pre-scripted language is over, leaving you free to describe exactly what *this* student needs to work on.

The single-point rubric is a perfect instrument for delivering specific feedback: The open columns on either side leave plenty of room to comment on exactly what this student needs to do to improve their work, or to pinpoint the ways they have gone above and beyond. And if you'd like to get more student input when creating rubrics, it's even easier when you only have to craft language for the desired outcome, rather than the missteps.

Is there ever a need for a fully loaded rubric? Only in cases where feedback is never part of the plan: when a piece of writing is going to be scored on a state assessment, for example, there may be a need to identify every level of performance. But again, the people using these rubrics aren't interested in helping students learn and grow; their only goal is to score.

Written by Jennifer Gonzalez, October 2014. http://www.brilliant-insane.com/2014/10/single-point-rubric.html

WOULD YOU RATHER?...

(Teacher Edition)

Who Would You Rather See Teach Your Toughest Class?

- ☐ An administrator
- ☐ My congressmen
- ☐ A parent of a student in my class

Classroom by Google

Google Classroom and Calendar

Google Classroom is now integrated with Google calendar. This means that if a teacher has a Google calendar—either private or a class calendar—every time there is an assignment with a due date, it goes to that calendar.

--Thanks to Diane Deming for this tip!

Looking for great Google Slides? Try the ones that CTI has published at http://www.slidescarnival.com

Google Classroom for clubs?

It's a great way to disseminate information, post important forms/surveys, questions, and gather order forms.

Thanks to Sarah Forman for this tip!

Project-Based Learning and the Public Audience

What do you want students to gain from the audience interaction?

- If it's technical feedback, think about inviting experts for a pitch session or judging panel
- If it's response or action, think about having students make presentations to a community group or decision-making body (such as a school board, city council, or neighborhood association)
- If it's a celebration, think about inviting community members whose talents or contributions are being honored or recognized in student projects

Who's the audience for the "real-world" version?

- If students are producing documentaries, plan a red carpet screening event
- If students are making sense of history, set up a museum-style exhibition
- If students are producing literature, plan a book release party, author chat, or poetry slam

How can technology connect students with larger audiences?

Extend your reach to audiences beyond your immediate community by taking advantage of digital publishing sites like YouTube, social media tools like Twitter, or services like #comments4kids to solicit comments for students' blogs. "When a student gets 2,000 hits on YouTube, that's meaningful."

Written by Susie Boss

Chromebooks for PBL

WHS has 2 carts of Chromebooks to be used for PBL lessons. They are stored in the SDT Office and can be signed out as needed. There are a few guidelines that we will follow:

- These computers can only be used by teachers who are doing a PBL lesson.
- There is an Outlook calendar (WHS PBL Cart Calendar) to see when it is available.
- Email Lisa to sign up to use the cart.
- Please use the sign out sheets to identify which students are using which chrome book

PBL Brown Bag Lunches

Friday, October 9   Public Audience
Friday, October 23 Writing Rubrics
Friday, November 6 Managing the Chaos