

Criterion-referenced Assessment (CRA) Archive

Introduction

The Project has developed a section “CRA Archive” with the participation of University students. This provides them with the opportunity to increase their awareness of the criteria by which their disciplines can be assessed. The results are as below:

Reflective Writing from a Student Team on a Criteria-referenced Assessment Tool-Kit

We are a group of Polytechnic University students studying various disciplines. In our past learning experiences, many of us have been frustrated when we thought we had done a good piece of work but in the end, the teacher told us that we had failed to meet the requirements and were therefore awarded a poor grade. We felt that it is important to have a clearly specified criteria so that we can understand the expectations of teachers and the requirements of assignments. After seeking advice from several teachers, we decided that having rubrics would be a possible way forward on the basis that it can help us to clarify learning objectives and help teachers to fairly assess.

Generally, most of us agreed that a good rubric should have the following characteristics:

- be rich in detail
- have clear and accurate descriptors
- be easy to understand and follow
- have a clear structure

This tool kit contains rubrics for use in various disciplines which have been chosen and amended by us on the basis that they are suitable for use in a general classroom context. It is hoped that with this little help, we can save your time searching and developing a rubric for teaching and learning.

Prepared by the ARC student team June 2006

A story of setting up this tool-kit

But then, another problem arises. There are millions of rubrics available on the Web, how are we supposed to know which one is the best and which one should be adopted?

In regard to this problem, the eight of us gathered together and tried to find answers to these questions in addition to creating a criterion-referenced Assessment tool-kit where rubrics of

different subjects can be easily found by both students and teachers alike.

A couple of meetings were held after we had decided on constructing a rubrics bank. Since we are all studying different disciplines, we decided that it would be wiser and more efficient if each of us was mainly responsible for looking at the rubrics that were related to our own field of studies. For instance, if a person is studying engineering, he/she will only focus on finding rubrics that are related to engineering.

In the first stage of searching, each of us was expected to look at as many rubrics on the web as possible and picked out three to four in which we thought were the most suitable. During the meeting, we shared the information we had found and sought opinions from other team-members. We then gathered the suggestions from others and where necessary, fine-tuned the rubrics and decided on those to be included in the data bank.

During the search, the biggest challenge we encountered was the screening process. There are too many rubrics and it was very difficult and time-consuming to make a choice among them. Another difficulty is that the resources available on the web are distributed unevenly, for example, there are many rubrics on writing but very little on Art.

Example of criteria that are categorised by:

By Assessment Method	Source of Information
Journal Report	http://www.narragansett.k12.ri.us/NHS/eng/nardoneweb/njrubic.htm
Laboratory Exercise	http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/assessment/topic/rubicLab.htm
Portfolio	http://www.uwstout.edu/art/artedportfolios/evaluating/portevaluatorubic.html
Research Essay (Word)	http://www.markville.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/history/history/can_essay7.doc

By Skill	Source of Information
Oral/Speaking	http://www.tcet.unt.edu/START/instruct/general/oral.htm
Communications	http://www.palomar.edu/alp/benchmarks_for_core_skills.htm#com
Critical Thinking	http://www.insightassessment.com/pdf_files/rubic.pdf

Assessment Method	Source of Information
English	http://www.liv.ac.uk/soclas/exams/criteria.htm
Hospitality	http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/pla/18_assessment_guide.pdf
Mathematics	http://www.ipr.sc.edu/effectiveness/assessment/criteria/math.htm
Music	http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/B/Nancy.H.Barry-1/samrub.html
Science	http://www.ipr.sc.edu/effectiveness/assessment/criteria/science.htm
Engineering	http://www.engr.sjsu.edu/assessment/topic/t1.html