

# Rubric Workshop

Amanda Sisselman-Borgia  
LaRose T. Parris  
February 26, 2021

# Introductions

Who are we and why are we doing this?

AAC&U conference

Reluctant to use rubrics? Tell us your concerns!

# Two different perspectives from us!

## Humanities

- 12 years experience using rubrics as an English professor at LaGuardia Community College
- Rubrics were instrumental for departmental norming sessions, Periodic Program Review, and for college-wide assessment to prepare for Middle States accreditation.

## Social sciences

- Using rubrics in social work courses since 2007 - it has significantly reduced the number of questions I receive from students re their grades - it is rare if I receive one question about a grade in a semester - transparency!

# Rubrics manage student and faculty expectations

## For faculty

- Rubrics provide an opportunity to articulate how curricular learning objectives are evaluated in student work.
- Rubrics offer concrete guidelines for high-stakes writing assignments.
- Creating rubrics allows for enhanced pedagogical affirmation.

## For students

- Rubrics eliminate guesswork about how their grades are calculated.
- Rubrics demystify their professors' expectations about high-stakes assignments.
- Rubrics may be used as assessment tools that encourage students to discern areas of “weakness” that may be addressed in tutoring.

# Reasons to use rubrics

- Rubrics encourage healthy *conversation* about curricular expectations for faculty and staff - a starting point!
- Rubrics create an ongoing *dialogue* about assignments and assessment.
- Rubrics provide a concrete measure of evaluating student performance.
- Rubrics allow for full curricular *transparency* between students and faculty.
- Rubrics may allow for greater *objectivity* during the grading process.
- Rubrics establish an evaluative *standard* in the classroom.

# AACU Rubric Examples

These are ways for us to conceptualize what is important in our assignments and classes

Also ways to share these points with students for transparency

# Examples and experiences with Rubrics

Rubrics can be simple or more complex

I use very simple rubrics in the feedback I provide back to my students

Content - 12 (I often break this down into a few parts based on assignment)

Organization - 5 (includes spelling, grammar, use of headings, flow, etc)

Use of correct citations/references - 3 (includes proper APA use, citations, etc)

## Another Example

LaRose will walk us through another example

# Exercise - try this out for one of your courses!

Think about and choose one assignment that you assign in your class

- What are the most important elements that you consider as you are grading?
- List those elements - each on its own line
- Now, rank the elements in order of importance
- What percentage of the course grade is this assignment
- Now, using that percent as a #, break down in points, how much each element is worth.
- You might also consider providing a rubric for the full course (i.e., attendance, assignments, etc)

**Questions?!**