

Rubrics

Education

What a rubric does for consistency, and how it quietly narrows the work.

Analytic rubric

- Separate score for each criterion
- Diagnostic: shows where it fell down
- Slower to apply
- Good for feedback and teaching
- Risk: the parts do not sum to quality

Holistic rubric

- One judgement of the whole
- Faster and often more reliable
- Poor at explaining the score
- Good for grading at volume
- Risk: reasons stay implicit

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Analytic for teaching, holistic for grading. Using an analytic rubric as a checklist produces work that ticks boxes and says nothing.

Rubric language such as detailed, effective or sophisticated carries no shared meaning until it is anchored to real pupil work.