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# *BPSD Technology Publication*

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## *Using Rubrics for Assessment*

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### **Why Rubrics?**

#### **Why Use Rubrics?**

Rubrics appeal to teachers and students for many reasons. First, they are powerful tools for both teaching and assessment. Rubrics make the teacher's expectations clear and shows students how to meet these expectations. Thus, the most common argument for using rubrics is they help define "quality."

A second reason that rubrics are useful is that they help students become more thoughtful judges of the quality of their own and others' work. Self assessment increases students' sense of responsibility for their own work and cuts down on the number of "Am I done yet?" questions.

Third, rubrics reduce the amount of time teachers spend evaluating student work. Teachers tend to find that by the time a piece has been self and peer-assessed according to a rubric, they have little left to say about it. When they do have something to say, they can often simply circle an item in the rubric, rather than struggling to explain the flaw or strength they have noticed and figuring out what to suggest in terms of improvements. Rubrics provide students with more informative feedback about their strengths and areas in need of improvement.

Fourth, teachers appreciate rubrics because their "accordion" nature allows them to accommodate heterogeneous classes. They can be "stretched" to reflect the work of both gifted students and those with learning disabilities.

Finally, rubrics are easy to use and to explain.

### **Ready Made Rubrics**

- Many sites offer ready made rubrics. Find 43 different rubrics for all subject areas at [http://go.hrw.com/ndNSAPI.nd/gohrw\\_rls1/pKeywordResults?sr9%20rubrics](http://go.hrw.com/ndNSAPI.nd/gohrw_rls1/pKeywordResults?sr9%20rubrics) or go to <http://go.hrw.com/> and search for SR9 Rubrics
- Teach-nology Rubrics at [http://www.teach-nology.com/web\\_tools/rubrics/](http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/rubrics/)
- Kathy Schrock's Rubric Resources at <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/assess.html> also includes report card comments
- The Staff Room at <http://www.odyssey.on.ca/~elaine.coxon/rubrics.htm>
- Rubrics and Evaluation Resources at <http://www.ncsu.edu/midlink/ho.html>

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## Rubric Generators

Can't find a rubric to use or want to make your own? Go here to find a number of online or electronic Rubric Generators <http://www.rubrics4teachers.com/> Click on Rubric Generators.

- Teach-Nology Rubric Generator – Online generator with pre set topics and categories. <http://www.theeducatorsnetwork.com/utt/rubricteachnology.htm>
- PBL Checklist – Project Based Learning Checklist – Categories in writing, science, oral presentation, and multimedia. <http://www.4teachers.org/projectbased/checklist.shtml>
- RubiStar – an online tool which gives you more flexibility that Teach-Nology Rubric Generator. <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/>
- Landmark Rubrics Tool – their link doesn't work. Try this one. [http://landmark-project.com/classweb/tools/rubric\\_builder.php3](http://landmark-project.com/classweb/tools/rubric_builder.php3)

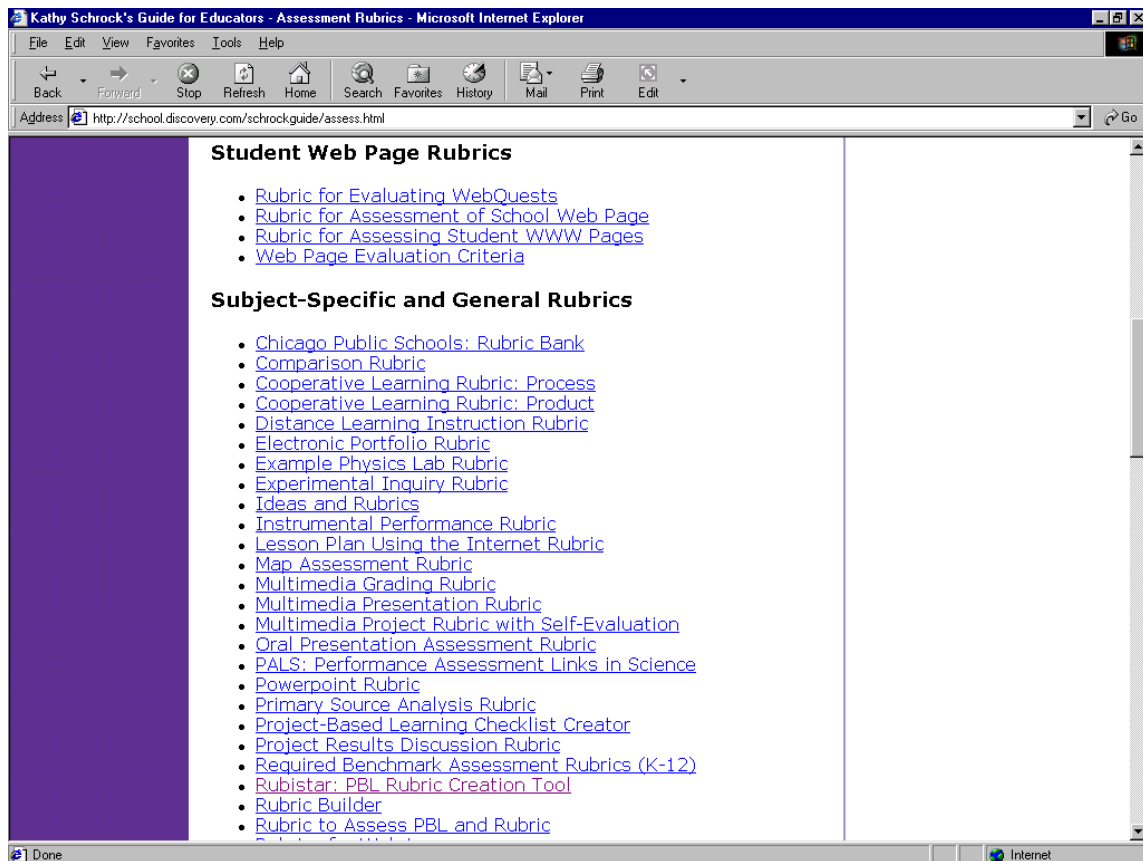


Rubric Sharing. Search for existing rubrics that others have created, create your own and save them for others.

or

- Rubricator – this is commercial software. Can download a free trial version. [http://www.rubrics.com/4daction/w\\_Signup/1](http://www.rubrics.com/4daction/w_Signup/1)
- The Rubric Builder – commercial software. You can take a tour and download a 30 day trial version at <http://www.rubricbuilder.on.ca/>

*Rubric Builder*



A screenshot of Kathy Schrock's Rubric Resource Page