Using the Writing Rubric

The rubrics for explanatory/informational and persuasive writing should be used by students

and teachers as classroom tools for every writing assignment. Encourage students to

annotate the rubric, using their own words, to enhance their understand of the criteria.

**Why use rubrics with students in the classroom? It increases students’ understanding. Here are a few examples to explain.**

* Rubrics help students understand expectations and individual components of an assignment.
* Rubrics help students become more aware of their learning process and progress
* Rubrics can motivate students to improve their work by using rubric-specific feedback before resubmitting.
* Rubrics provide students with what the performance expectations will be before beginning an assignment.
* Rubrics help students become aware of the quality of their own work. Students can identify their strengths and weaknesses when using a rubric and can then direct their efforts accordingly.
* Rubrics support learning by helping students see “good work” as a bigger than a single task.

**How can rubrics be used in the classroom? There are practical and effective ways that the writing rubrics can be used in a classroom. Here are a few examples of how rubrics can be used.**

* Teachers should recreate the rubric as a fillable .pdf that can be emailed for student use.
* Teachers should evaluate writing pieces (from sources other than their students) with the whole class or in small groups to model using the writing rubrics.
* Students should participate in peer-review to provide peer feedback on writing drafts.
* Students should use the rubrics for self-assessment to improve personal performance and learning.
* Students should use the writing rubrics to monitor their own progress as they move through the assignment.
* Students should use the rubric as a final checkpoint before turning in a written assignment.