EXPLORING RUBRICS
Words and Phrases Rubric Design
Developed by the SBE Design Team, Northern Colorado

FOUR LEVELS OF DIFFERENCE IN DEGREE		
DEGREES OF UNDERSTANDING	DEGREES OF FREQUENCY	DEGREES OF EFFECTIVENESS

■ thorough/complete
■ substantial/extensive
■ minimal/general
■ partial/some
   misunderstanding
	■ nearly always/always
	■ often/frequently
	■ sometimes/occasionally
	■ rarely/almost never/
	   never
		■ highly effective
		■ effective
		■ moderately effective
		■ minimally effective/
		   ineffective

Descriptors for weaker performance	Descriptors for Stronger Performance Levels

■ recognizes and describes briefly
■ incomplete attempt
■ with some errors
■ without complete understanding
■ generally explains
■ general, fundamental understanding
■ uses a single method
■ represents a single perspective
■ identifies few connections
■ without drawing accurate conclusions
■ without explaining the reason
■ presents confusing statements and facts
■ without demonstrating complete
   understanding of the characteristics
■ with limited details
■ demonstrates beginning understanding
■ has a general sense
■ with inaccuracies
■ takes a common, conventional approach
■ overlooks critical details
■ relies on single source
■ vague or incomplete description
■ unable to apply information in problem
   solving
■ does not perceive a pattern
■ presents concepts in isolation
■ omits important details, facts, and/or concepts
■ no evidence of future projections
	■ thoroughly understands and explains
	■ efficient, thorough solution
	■ without errors
	■ thorough, extensive understanding
	■ provides new insight
	■ thorough mastery of extensive knowledge
	■ uses multiple methods
	■ represents a variety of perspectives
	■ draws complex connections
	■ draws logical conclusions which are not
	   immediately obvious
	■ clearly explains the reasoning
	■ provides clear, thorough support
	■ demonstrates complete understanding of all the
	   characteristics
	■ in elaborate detail
	■ sophisticated synthesis of complex body of
	   information
	■ shows an impressive level of depth
	■ with precision and accuracy
	■ takes an original, unique, imaginative
	   approach
	■ provides comprehensive analysis
	■ uses multiple sources
	■ thorough explanation of critical analysis
	■ solves problem by effective application of
	   information
	■ identifies an abstract pattern
	■ relates concepts using a variety of factors
	■ thorough presentation of important details,
	   facts, and concepts
	■ predicts future changes

UC Denver - http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/faculty/center-for-faculty-development/Documents/Tutorials/Rubrics/index.htm
Rubric Maker Teachnology - http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/rubrics/
Cornell - https://teaching.cornell.edu/teaching-resources/assessment-evaluation/using-rubrics
Yale Poorvu Center - https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/Rubrics
Writing Effective Rubrics - https://myresources.spcollege.edu/writing-effective-rubrics