

Single Point Rubric: Blank Template and Build Guide

A single point rubric describes only proficient work in the center column and leaves both side columns blank for feedback written for that specific student. Page one is the blank template. Page two is how to build one.

Blank single point rubric

Assignment: _____ Student: _____

Not yet — what is missing	The standard: proficient work	Beyond — what went further

Fill in the center column before students start. The side columns stay empty until you read the work. If you are scoring it, mark each row Not Yet, Meets or Beyond and set what a full page of Meets is worth *before* the assignment goes out.

Worked example — a document-based writing task

Not yet	The standard	Beyond
	Claim. States a position that could be argued against, not a summary of the topic.	
	Evidence. Each piece of evidence supports the specific sentence it sits next to.	
	Sourcing. Names who produced each source and when, and why that matters to the claim.	
	Counterargument. States the strongest objection fairly, then answers it.	
	Clarity. A reader can follow the argument without rereading a sentence.	

Building One, and When Not To

Five steps

1. **Write the standard, not the task.** “Three paragraphs with five sources” is a task; a student can satisfy it completely and write something worthless.
2. **Cut to four or five rows.** Each row is one criterion a student could actually fix.
3. **Put it in students' hands before they start**, and let them help revise the wording.
4. **Score one sample together as a class**, so the words in the center column mean one thing.
5. **Fill the side columns in your own words.** One specific sentence per row beats a paragraph nobody reads.

When to use an analytic rubric instead

Situation	Why the described levels are doing real work
Large batches	Two columns of handwriting per student is the cost of this format, and it is a real one.
Shared scoring	Described levels are what hold three teachers' judgments together on a common assessment.
High stakes	A student contesting a grade has firmer ground when the levels were written in advance.
Novices, or unequal starting points	A one-line criterion assumes the reader already shares your sense of what the words mean.

The honest evidence, in four lines

- No controlled study has compared the single point format against a multi-level rubric.
- Rubrics in general: a meta-analytic review of 23 studies found a corrected effect of about 0.45 on academic performance, a non-significant effect on self-regulated learning, and a small effect on self-efficacy (Panadero et al., 2023).
- In that review, the *number of performance levels* was not a significant moderator.
- A separate review found positive outcomes across rubric studies and no relationship between the type or quality of rubric and the result (Brookhart, 2018). Format is not where the gain lives.

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