A rubric is a scoring tool that teachers often use to describe the criteria for how a piece of work will be judged. For example, a rubric for an essay might tell students their work will be judged on organization, composition, and grammar. Good rubrics also define what low-quality and high-quality work looks like in each of these areas. Below is a description of why and how rubrics are used:

**Reasons for using a rubric:**
A rubric serves as a guide or set of directions to complete an assignment by clearly identifying the important components of a school task. Students no longer have to second-guess the instructions given orally in class.

**Understanding the multiple uses of rubrics:**
Rubrics can be used as an *assessment of learning* to assign a final grade on a project. Rubrics can also be used as an *assessment for learning* by identifying particular areas in which students may need additional instruction or practice in order to master a topic.

**Between the rubric and the final grade for a project:**
Students use a rubric as a tool to help them move from an initial acquaintance with academic material to demonstrating mastery of the subject.

**Rich treasures found and enjoyed through the use of a rubric:**
Embedded in the rubric are the jewels of learning such as increased knowledge and particular skills a student can enjoy and use throughout school and into adult life.

**Indicate what’s important to students, parents, and teacher with a rubric:**
With a rubric everyone knows what is expected to successfully complete an assignment and what the criteria for scoring the work for a grade will be.

**Confidence and competence go hand-in-hand with rubrics:**
Students can easily determine what they already know and understand, and what remains for further study. They can confidently demonstrate their level of ability, or competence.

**Successful students follow a rubric to achieve meaningful and challenging learning.**

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