

# Week 3 RSI Focus

## Rubrics



## Week 3: Using Rubrics as RSI in Canvas

Dear Faculty,

This week's RSI focus highlights how **well-written rubrics support learning, not just grading**. A strong rubric clearly communicates expectations, guides student work, and allows instructors to provide meaningful, criterion-based feedback. When rubrics include descriptive language and are paired with instructor feedback, they demonstrate intentional course design and active facilitation, both key RSI indicators.

---

**TIPS: Writing Strong, RSI-Aligned Rubrics that go beyond point values and support regular, substantive interaction in online courses.**

1. **Write Criteria Using Student-Facing Language**
2. **Use Descriptive Performance Levels (Not Just Points)**
3. **Align Each Criterion to a Learning Outcome**
4. **Design Rubrics to Support Consistency and Equitable Grading Practices**

### **Sample RSI-Quality Rubric (Single Criterion – Earth Science / Geography)**

Earth's Revolution and Relationship to the Seven Parallels

#### **Exceeds Expectations (4 points)**

Accurately explains and diagrams how Earth's revolution around the Sun, combined with its axis tilt, affects the distribution of solar energy at each of the Seven Parallels. Clearly connects these relationships to seasons, variation in daylight length, and solar angle at different latitudes. Uses precise scientific terminology, names dates correctly and includes specific, accurate examples.

### **Meets Expectations (3 points)**

Correctly explains and diagrams Earth's revolution around the Sun and identifies the Seven Parallels. Describes how Earth's tilt influences seasons and sunlight patterns at different latitudes. Explanations are generally accurate, though connections between concepts may be somewhat general or lack depth or specific examples.

### **Approaching Expectations (2 points)**

Shows partial understanding of Earth's revolution or the Seven Parallels but explanations are incomplete, unclear, or contain minor inaccuracies. Connections between revolution, axial tilt, and latitude are weak or oversimplified. Examples may be vague, incorrect, or missing.

### **Does Not Yet Meet Expectations (1 point)**

Does not accurately explain Earth's revolution around the Sun or the role of the Seven Parallels. Responses show significant misconceptions (e.g., confusing rotation with revolution or seasons caused by distance from the Sun). Little to no explanation or relevant examples are provided.

### **Why This Works for RSI**

- Expectations are explicit before submission
- Feedback is criterion-based and individualized
- Students can clearly see how to improve
- Instructor presence is evident through intentional design and comments

### **Add Instructor Feedback (Canvas Rubric Comment Box):**

Use this space to further explain WHY the level was earned, how the student's work could improve and provide next steps if applicable.

Example feedback:

- "You clearly explained Earth's revolution and axial tilt. To strengthen your response, connect this process more directly to length of daylight at the Tropic of Cancer versus the Arctic Circle."
- "You identified the Seven Parallels correctly, but review how axis tilt, not distance from the Sun, causes seasonal changes."

### **Instructional Support**

Here is an instructional video that shows how to create and use rubrics in Canvas:

[YouTube: Adding a Rubric to a Canvas Assignment](#)

**Tip:** YouTube has many short, helpful videos on creating effective Canvas rubrics. If you prefer a different style or pacing, feel free to do your own search and use the resource that best fits your teaching approach.

---

Thank you for your continued efforts to support student learning through clear expectations, consistent feedback, and intentional RSI practices.

*CTX Staff*

*“Your partner in Professional Growth”*

---



**Center for Teaching Excellence (CTX)**

11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

Office: (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2797 or 2799

Email: [CTX@cerritos.edu](mailto:CTX@cerritos.edu)

Website: [www.cerritos.edu/ctx](http://www.cerritos.edu/ctx)