Slide 1

Rubrics in Blackboard

Yahong Xu
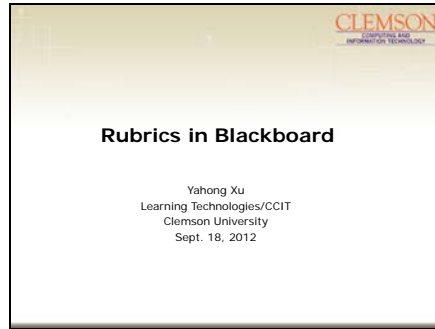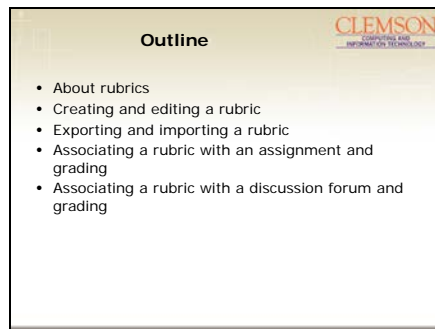Learning Technologies/CCIT
Clemson University
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Welcome to this Tuesday's Tech Talk. Today's topic is about using rubrics in Blackboard.
My name is Yahong Xu. I am Blackboard support and application administrator at Learning Technologies team at CCIT.
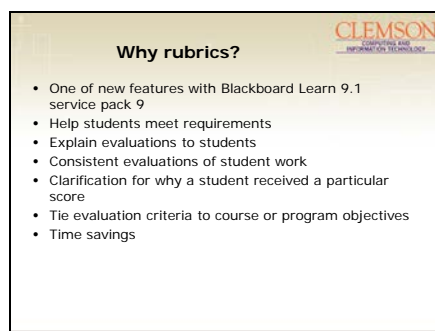
Slide 2

Outline

- About rubrics
- Creating and editing a rubric
- Exporting and importing a rubric
- Associating a rubric with an assignment and grading
- Associating a rubric with a discussion forum and grading

We will go over the following topics today: about rubrics, creating and editing a rubric, exporting and importing a rubric, associating a rubric with an assignment, and discussion forum.

You may also associate a rubric with a test including short answer, essay or file response questions, associate a rubric with wikis, or blogs, associate a rubric with a single, stand alone column on the Grade Center for grading purposes.

Slide 3

Why rubrics?

- One of new features with Blackboard Learn 9.1 service pack 9
- Help students meet requirements
- Explain evaluations to students
- Consistent evaluations of student work
- Clarification for why a student received a particular score
- Tie evaluation criteria to course or program objectives
- Time savings

Why do we need a rubric?
It is one of new features with Blackboard Learn 9.1 service pack 9. It allows an instructor to create an interactive rubric, associate it with an assignment, discussion forum or assessment to grade, enter individual feedback or general comment or feedback.

Using rubrics helps student organize their efforts to meet requirement of an assignment or assessment, and

instructors can use a rubric to explain their evaluations to students, and it shows consistent evaluations of student work, and clarifies for why a student received a particular score.

Rubrics can also be tied with your course or program objectives. Last but not the least, using the rubrics can save your time for grading.

Slide 4

It is a tool that lists evaluation criteria for many gradable content items in Blackboard including blogs, journals, wikis, discussion board, assignments, short answer, and file response or essays questions in a test and with Grade Center columns.

A rubric is made up of rows and columns. The rows correspond to the various criteria of an assignment, discussion board forum, or an online assessment. The columns correspond to the level of achievement expressed for each criterion. A description and point value for each cell in the rubric defines the evaluation and score of an assignment, discussion board forum, or an online assessment.

You may set up a rubric which have no point value, or have point values, point range, percent or percent range.

Slide 5

Using a rubric in Blackboard

Two steps:
- Step 1:
  Create a rubric in your Blackboard course: Control Panel —> Course Tools —> Rubrics
- Step 2:
  -- Associate a rubric with an assignment, discussion forum, assessment (short answer, essay, file response question type), wikis and blogs in content area
  -- Associate a column with a rubric on the Grade Center

As to how to use a rubric in your Blackboard course, there are two steps involved.

First, you will need to create a rubric under Control Panel, click and expand Course Tools, then click on Rubrics, click Create Rubric button to create a new rubric. At this point, it is a single, stand-alone rubric, to use it for make interactive and grading purposes, next you will have to associate it with a gradable content item, such as assignment, discussion forum, or assessment.
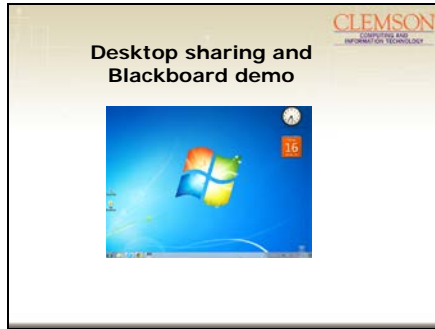
Slide 6

Rubric screen

This is how a rubric looks like after you set up all the criteria and details in a Blackboard course.

Slide 7

Here is a demo in a Blackboard course to show you how to use a rubric and grade items with a rubric.
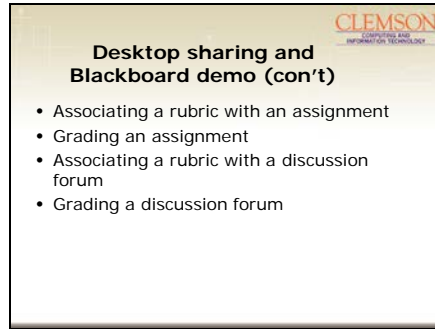
To locate rubrics, go to Control Panel, click and expand Course Tools, scroll down to click on Rubrics, click Create Rubric button to create a new rubric.

Once you create a rubric, clicking on the action link next to a rubric will allow you to edit, copy, delete or view any associated content.

Clicking on Copy will allow you to keep the settings and simply re-name the rubric.

Import and Export Rubric: If you want to move or share a rubric with another instructor, you may use this option to first export the rubric as a zip file, then go to the course where you want to import the rubric, import the zip file so you may use the same rubric in a different course.

Slide 8

Desktop sharing and Blackboard demo (con't)

- Associating a rubric with an assignment
- Grading an assignment
- Associating a rubric with a discussion forum
- Grading a discussion forum

Associating a rubric with an assignment: go to a content area, click on the action link next to Assessments, select Assignment. Select from an option: Associated Rubrics, click the dropdown menu to see the choices: Select from existing rubrics, create new rubric, create from existing.

Two rubrics may be used with an assignment. The first one is for grading, the second for secondary evaluation. Select to show the rubric to students with rubric scores or without rubric scores, release the rubric after you are done with grading.

How to grade an assignment with a rubric: Locate the student attempt from the Grade Center, click the exclamation mark to view the attempt, click View Rubric button, check the radio button for each grading criteria, enter feedback to each criterion, or general feedback at the end, click Save and Exit.

Associating a rubric with a discussion forum: Go to Discussion Board, click Create Forum to set up a new forum. Select to grade discussion forum option, choose from existing rubrics, create a new one, or create from existing rubrics.

Grade a discussion forum with a rubric: click on the discussion forum, click Grade Forum, click on Grade button to view all posts, click Edit Grade to grade and enter feedback, or grading notes for instructor's reference, click Save Grade button to save the grade.

Slide 9

Rubrics resources — CLEMSON COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Interactive rubrics video
  http://vimeo.com/37735883
- Sample rubric ideas
  http://www.assessment.ua.edu/Rubrics/UA_Faculty_Rubrics.html
- Blackboard instructor guide: Rubrics
  http://library.blackboard.com/ref/a86c3648-80a5-43cc-8fed-b3f5d24518ce/Content/as_r7_3_Instructor_Manual/rubrics.htm

Some additional rubric resources:
• Interactive rubrics video from Northern Illinois University
• Sample rubric ideas posted at University of Albama website
• Blackboard instructor guide about rubrics

Slide 10

Upcoming Tech Talks — CLEMSON COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- 9/25: Google Apps for Education Overview – Laurie Sherrod
- 10/2: Blackboard Testing Options – Jan Lay
- 10/9: Midterm week, no tech talk
- 10/16: Fall break, no tech talk
- 10/23: Linking articles on E-reserves - Library

Upcoming Tech Talks:
9/25 by Laurie Sherrod: Google Apps for Education Overview
10/2 by Jan Lay: Blackboard testing options
There will be no tech talks in midterm week and fall break
Tech Talk will resume on 10/23, the topic is Linking articles on e-reserves by the university library

Slide 11

Please feel free to ask any questions.

Thank you.