Tools & Tips for Grading

Grad STEP 2012
Agenda

• Introductions
• Think/pair/share – the challenges of grading
• Grading exercise in small groups
• The purpose of grading
• What makes grading difficult?
• Rubrics & grading
• Time management
• Q & A / Evaluations
Introductions

• Your name
• Your department/program
• One question you bring with you to the workshop
Think/Pair/Share

What do you find most challenging about grading? (If you’ve never graded before, what do you anticipate being most challenging about it?)
Why Grade?
Feedback to Students
Feedback to Instructors
Evaluation
Motivation

Fantastic!
What Makes Grading Difficult?
Accuracy
Time
Grumpy Students
A Focus on Numbers
Advantages of Rubrics

• Usually very concrete and straightforward to use.
• Can help to preserve high standards for you to hold students to.
• You do most of your thinking about what you will give points for while you are still fresh at the beginning of the grading session.
• Helps ensure consistency.
• Can help grading to go quickly.
Disadvantages of Rubrics

• You still have to figure out what to do about unusual student answers so that you treat them fairly.
• These kinds of rubrics can be unjust if applied too rigidly.
• There can be quite a lot of work involved in figuring out and writing the rubric in the first place.
Tips for Grading Efficiently

• Be as clear as you can about your expectations.
• Use tools like rubrics to help keep you on track and to save you time.
• Be as consistent as possible – this is especially important when there is more than one grader for the class.
• Look for the range of responses within the class before determining actual grades.
• Write comments selectively, not exhaustively.
• Focus on providing information that students can use to improve their future work and that will enhance their learning.
Questions?
Evaluation Cards

On one side: one thing you learned or that you are taking with you from this workshop.

On the other: a question you still have, or a suggestion for improving the workshop.
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