

## Online Discussions – Comparing Rubrics

From W2009 Oregon-Iraq GOES, Tandem ELT Training:

<http://aei.uoregon.edu/de/iraq/index.html>

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### Rubric #1

This rubric is an example based on a discussion of a four-skills approach to teaching.

0 points	No posting, a late posting, or an off-topic posting.
1 point	A very brief reply. For example... "Yes, I am in favor of using a four-skills approach in language teaching. This is a good idea because it gives students a chance to practice listening, writing, speaking and listening."
3 Points	A reply that is linked to what one or more people have said, and offers some additional information or an extended point of view. For example... "Yes, I agree with Ahmed and Nargas. The four-skills approach is an excellent way to teach language. However, I think that depending on your field, some skills are more important than other skills. Also, it depends on the purpose you have for studying English."
5 Points	A reply that is linked to what one or more people have said, offers some additional information, and takes the discussion one step further. For example... "I agree with Ahmed and Nargas. The four-skills approach is an excellent way to teach language. However, I think depending on your field, some skills are more important than others. For example, if you are a researcher, you probably need more reading and writing skills. However, if you are a salesperson for an international company, you probably need to do negotiations and meet clients face to face, so speaking and listening skills are important. Some people say you cannot separate the skills, which is true, but I think certain skills are more important than others depending on the situation. For more on this topic, I recommend the article: <a href="http://www.cal.org/resources/Digest/0105oxford.html">http://www.cal.org/resources/Digest/0105oxford.html</a> , Integrated Skills in the ESL/EFL Classroom (2001) from Rebecca Oxford, University of Maryland."

### Rubric #2

Excellent	Using respectful language, you specifically mention something you found interesting or thought-provoking. You give a related example from your own experience (which may agree or disagree with the original comment). Your comments give other students something to think about and agree or disagree with. An excellent comment will add significant value to what someone else has said.
Satisfactory	Using respectful language, you either mention something you found interesting/thought-provoking OR you give a related example. Your comments may or may not give other students something to agree or disagree with. A satisfactory comment will add some value, but not a lot.
Poor	Your comment does not use respectful language AND/OR your comment does not add any new information to what was said before. Just saying "I agree" is a poor comment. A poor comment will add little or no value to what was said.

### Rubric #3

This rubric is an example based on the discussion topic:

*A debate on the advantages and disadvantages of the four-skills approach in language teaching.*

0 Points	No posting or a late posting.
1 Point	A very brief reply. For example... "Yes, I am in favor of using a four-skills approach in language teaching. This is a good idea because it gives students a chance to practice listening, writing, speaking and listening."
2 Points	A reply that is linked to what one or more people have said, and offers some additional information or an extended point of view. For example... "Yes, I agree with Ahmed and Nargas. The four-skills approach is an excellent way to teach language. However, I think that depending on your field, some skills are more important than other skills. Also, it depends on the purpose you are studying English."
3 points	A reply that is linked to what one or more people have said, offers some additional information, and takes the discussion one step further. For example... "I agree with Ahmed and Nargas. The four-skills approach is an excellent way to teach language. However, I think depending on your field, some skills are more important than others. For example, if you are a researcher, you probably need more reading and writing skills. However, if you are a salesperson for an international company, you probably need to do negotiations and meet clients face to face, so speaking and listening skills are important. Some people say you can not separate the skills, which is true, but I think certain skills are more important than others depending on the situation. When I look at job posting for teachers on Monster.com ( <a href="http://www.monster.com">http://www.monster.com</a> ), I am surprised at how few of them require strong overall communication skills. It is assumed that all teachers have them? What do you think?"