

KQED Perspectives Unit Curriculum

By Ruth Corley, The San Francisco School

REVISING AND EDITING

Lesson 9: Using a Rubric

Objective:

- Students will understand how to use a rubric to assess a Perspectives essay.

Estimated time: one 50-minute class period

Materials:

- Perspectives Rubric transparency
 - Handouts: Perspectives rubric handout. Pdf available at <http://www.kqed.org/radio/programs/perspectives/sfsp-resources.jsp>.
1. The rubric I use to assess the Perspectives essays includes all of the writing strategies introduced during the unit, as well as the writing process. Using an overhead projector, we go through each category and discuss what qualifies an essay for a “4,” the highest score on the rubric. Some teachers find it helpful to create and discuss a model essay for each score. This can help delineate the difference between an essay scored 1 and an essay scored 4.
 2. I find that having students use a rubric right away helps it sink in. I give each student a copy of the rubric. While listening to a Perspectives essay, students circle the boxes on the rubric that they think best matches the piece. *Note: The revision and editing process boxes are not applicable.* At the end of the Perspective, students discuss in pairs the choices they made. If there is time, you could evaluate the essay on the overhead together as a class.
 3. Students then go back to their essays and decide if there is an area in which they can improve their writing. Students spend the rest of the period revising their essays based on the rubric criteria.