

Glossary of Terms for Constructed Response

Analytic Scale: multiple sets of descriptors. Each set describes one attribute, factor, or trait with descriptors for each level. For example, the Six-trait Analytic Model of Writing Assessment has descriptors for five different levels for each of six traits: Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Voice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions. These writing traits are the attributes or factors of writing the designers of the 6-trait model deemed most important to describe good writing.

Constructed Response: abbreviated "CR"; an answer students generate themselves. Short, open-ended answers and longer, multi-paragraph essays fall into this category.

Evaluative Criteria: the factors, attributes, or traits of the skill being evaluated; sometimes called "performance criteria".

Holistic Scale: one set of descriptors at each level of the rubric. For example, a holistic writing rubric might have descriptors for the 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 levels. The descriptors at each level might concentrate on degree to which student responses accurately and thoroughly address the prompt.

Performance Assessment: a constructed response, the extent to which the task assigned to the student resembles what would be required of the student in the 'real world'.

Prompt: the question or situation presented to students.

Quality Descriptors: a set of descriptors at each level of a rubric. Together these descriptors constitute the scale; also called "quality definitions."

Scoring Guide: a tool to measure a skill; the set of quality descriptors at each level of a rubric. The scoring guide provides the criteria that students and teachers use to evaluate thoroughness and accuracy of a student's response to a prompt. The scoring guide helps distinguish lower quality responses from higher quality responses. The scoring guide helps provide accuracy and consistency during scoring.

Selected Response: abbreviated "SR"; students choose one answer from among the choices provided on the test. "Multiple choice."