



Give students a model

Do you give essay exams or written assignments? If so, consider showing your students an “A” paper from a previous semester, or even from your current class. Students often “get” what you mean when they see the real thing.

A grading rubric will also make your expectations clearer to students. Spend time going over your assignment instructions along with the grading rubric to show students how they can use the rubric to check their own work. For more information on creating rubrics, see Chapter 8 in our book.

It is helpful to explain *why good writing is good*. Be explicit. Do not assume students know; remember, they are novices and you are an expert. The experience they may have writing a paper or exam in another course likely will *not* automatically transfer to yours.

By helping students understand what you expect, how writing in your course is done well, you are teaching *disciplinary literacy* skills. These are important if students are to excel in your course and field. Read more about disciplinary literacy [here](#).