

Adjectives & Adverbs for Criteria Descriptors

Faculty Resource

When developing criteria descriptions and performance level descriptors, it is important to remember they should be:

- Clear and concise
- Definitive and observable
- Written in student friendly language

HIGHEST				LOWEST
Accurately	Accurately	A few	Cursory	Absent
Advanced	Adequate	Cursory	Few	Illogical
All	All	Good	Incomplete	Improper
Always	Appropriate	Limited	Inconclusive	Inadequate
Clear(ly)	Clear(ly)	More than	Lack(s)(ing) (enough of.....)	Inappropriate
Compelling	Concise	Mostly/most of	Major	Incomplete
Completely	Consistently	Minimal	Minor	Ineffective(ly)
Comprehensive(ly)	Conclusive	Partial(ly)	Predictable	No/none
Consistently	Convincing	Plausible	Questionable	(In)Significant
Concise	Detailed	Rarely	Rarely	Undeveloped
Critical	Effective(ly)	Reasonable	Rudimentary	Unsatisfactory
Crucial	Essential	Seldom	Simplistic	Unsupported
Detailed	Few	Simplistic	Superficial	
Efficient(ly)	Logical	Some degree of	Unclear	
Exemplary	Major	Sometimes	Underdeveloped	
Excellent	Minor	Somewhat	Unnecessary	
Extensive	Meaningful	Suitable	Unrelated	
Focussed	Often		Vague	
Highest level of	Precise			
Innovative	Rational			
Insightful	Reasonable			
Intuitive	Relevant			
Major	Satisfactory			
Perceptive	Specific			
Powerful	Sufficient			
Purposeful	Thoughtful			
Precise	Very good			
Rich				
Significant				
Substantial				
Thorough				
Thoughtful				
Vivid				

NOTE: Some descriptors may be used at either end of the performance level scale. For example, you may say “few (<4) spelling errors” for a high level of performance, or “few points were presented to support the argument” for a lower level of performance.

NOTES: