

Chapter 3 Definitions

Assessment blueprint: A plan, usually in the form of a table, that specifies which learning goals will be the focus of an assessment and how much weight each goal will have (also known as a *table of test specifications*).

Bias and distortion: A factor that causes results to be inaccurate is a source of *bias*. *Distortion* refers to the effect the source of bias has on the results.

Criteria: The separate categories in an analytic rubric. Criteria represent key, independently varying elements of quality.

Rubric: A scoring guide that describes a progression of levels of quality. Well-crafted rubrics use specific terms to define features of quality at each level. A rubric can be classified as *task specific* or *general*. A task-specific rubric describes features of quality that pertain only to the assignment given. For example, a task-specific rubric for a mathematics problem-solving assessment that tested students' ability to interpret a graph would describe the top level as "Answer states that Maria rides her bike to school and Gordon walks." A *general*

rubric for the same learning goal would describe the top level as "Interprets information from graph to provide correct answers." Additionally, rubrics are either *holistic* or *analytic* in structure. A holistic rubric yields only one score—all features of quality are considered together in determining the rating. An analytic rubric yields two or more separate scores—features of quality are organized into categories (called *criteria*) and are rated independently of one another.

Sample: A subset of a population.

Sampling: To select a representative portion of a domain to evaluate for the purpose of making a judgment about level of achievement in the domain as a whole.

Scoring guide: A delineation of how quality will be judged. Scoring guides can take the form of an answer key, a list of desired features or elements, or a rubric.

Validity: The degree to which the results of an assessment convey information about the learning it is intended to measure.