



CTE Project Rubric

Free Library · Reasoning-first rubric

A reasoning-first analytic rubric that drops onto any business or tech project you already assign. Four criteria, four levels, and a decision row that counts double because that is the part employers care about. Teacher guide, grading rubric, and score-to-grade guide here; the single-point self-check and self-assessment are the student pages. Edit any of it in the Word version.

HOW TO USE IT

Hand out the single-point student rubric with the project so students see the target on day one. Score each row 1 to 4 using the analytic descriptors below. The Decision and reasoning row is weighted double on purpose. When you are ready to grade, use the short score-to-grade guide. Retitle it for your own course whenever you like.

ANALYTIC RUBRIC: SCORE EACH ROW 1 TO 4

ANSWER KEY · TEACHER

This is the grading version. Read across each row and circle the level that best matches the work. The decision row counts double, so a solid idea with clear reasoning can outweigh a flashy deck that falls apart under one question.

Criterion	4 · Strong	3 · Solid	2 · Developing	1 · Beginning
Technical accuracy	Course concepts, data, and calculations are correct and applied correctly throughout.	Mostly correct with a few minor slips that do not change the result.	Several errors that affect the outcome or show shaky understanding.	Major or frequent errors; core concepts are misused.
Decision & reasoning (counts double)	Makes a clear, specific call and defends it with evidence, tradeoffs, and why alternatives lose.	Makes a clear call backed by a reasonable, relevant justification.	Makes a call, but the reasoning is thin, generic, or only partly connected to evidence.	No clear decision, or the reasoning is missing or contradicts the evidence.
Communication	Clear, organized, and professional; the intended audience could act on it as is.	Clear and organized with only small gaps or rough spots.	Understandable but disorganized, cluttered, or unpolished.	Hard to follow; the audience would be confused or misled.
Process & professionalism	On time, met every constraint, strong collaboration and evidence of revision.	Met the constraints with only minor lapses in process or teamwork.	Missed a deadline or a constraint, or collaboration was uneven.	Did not meet the basic requirements or process expectations.

Four criteria, but the decision row counts twice, so you are scoring out of five weighted rows. Total points possible is 20.

- 1 Score each of the four rows from 1 to 4.
- 2 Double the Decision and reasoning score and add it in a second time.
- 3 Add the five numbers. This is the raw total out of 20.
- 4 Divide the raw total by 20 to get a percent, then map it to your grade scale.

Quick reference

Raw total (of 20)	Percent	Rough grade
18 to 20	90 to 100	A
16 to 17	80 to 89	B
14 to 15	70 to 79	C
12 to 13	60 to 69	D
Below 12	Under 60	Not yet; revise and resubmit

GRADE THE REASONING, NOT THE GLITTER

Because the decision row is doubled, a modest project with well-defended thinking will beat a polished one that cannot survive a follow-up question. That is the exact signal you want CTE students to internalize before they hit an internship or interview.