

# Dr. Bill Altman invited to present at the Northeast Conference for Teachers of Psychology

October 1, 2015

SUNY Broome Professor Dr. Bill Altman (Psychology & Human Services) has been invited to present a workshop on designing rubrics to improve students' writing and make grading easier at the Northeast Conference for Teachers of Psychology (NECTOP) on Friday, October 9, in Fitchburg, MA.

Dr. Altman's workshop will teach participants how to design rubrics that provide students with valuable (i.e., actionable) feedback that helps them become better writers, and provide instructors with a means of accomplishing the task of grading students' assignments with greater ease and objectivity. It will begin with an introduction to the use of rubrics, offering examples rubrics that exemplify what might be considered "best practices" in providing both formative and summative assessments. Participants will then engage in hands-on design of their own rubrics.

Working with one of their own assignments, they'll define specific learning outcomes, and translate them into rubrics that they can use immediately, both to teach students writing and thinking skills, and to provide a means for objectively evaluating the skills their assignment was designed to build. Participants will also learn how to use a system of assigning quality points to reflect different levels of cognitive difficulty associated with each learning outcome to ensure that the grade produced by the rubric is valid as well as objective. Finally, participants will receive a set of resources, to help them apply what they learned in the workshop as they continue to develop rubrics for use in their courses.

You can learn more about NECTOP at <http://www.newenglandpsychological.org/nectop.html>.

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