



## Qualities of a Rubric Proficiency Description

### National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation - USCG On-Water Standards Grant II (SAIL & HUMAN Rubrics)

The following are key characteristics of a well-written Rubric proficiency description. It is:

1. **Clear and simple** - *Able to create a picture in one's mind about the quality of the performance.* The information is obvious and easy to understand with no further explanation or guidance needed.
2. **Concise** - *Less words is better than more.* Short, clearly written and straightforward. Describe using as few words as possible to give the necessary information.
3. **Inclusive** - *Apply to all boats within the domain.* If you find yourself distinguishing between propeller and jet propulsion, or a sail and keelboat, or a canoe and rowboat, for example, make the description more general to cover both.
4. **Independent** - *Keep each description independent of scenarios.* The description is able to function on its own without reliance on a particular scenario the boat might be in.
5. **Behavioral** - *Focus on visible behavior rather than thought.* What happens in behavior rather than what happens in the person's mind. Describe visible behavior that results from the operator's thinking or decision-making. We need to be able to "see it on a Sunday afternoon".
6. **Prioritized** - *Concentrate on the criteria identified in Part B of the Standard.* Make those topics the points of the description.
7. **Outcome oriented** – *Focus on outcome (what) rather than the process (how).* Structuring the description as the process "steps" related to accomplishing an outcome will result in too much detail in the description and begin to prescribe flow of activity.
8. **Self-referenced** - *Set the frame of reference as the boat the person is operating.* Make any measures relative to the boat the person is operating. For example: "...within 2 boat lengths" means two lengths of the boat the person is in.