Converting a rubric result to a grade

When we mark student work on a rubric, we get high quality feedback that can help students and teachers find out what they are ready to learn next. Sometimes, however, we want a summative result to report to stakeholders, such as parents.

Before we used rubrics, we would assign grades to student work using a variety of methods. The purpose of converting a rubric result into a grade is to mimic the type of grade students would have received under your old systems. We want a system that produces similar grades, with a similar class average.

An easy way to do this is to make a conversion table. Look at this example rubric and conversion table:

	Skill A	Skill B	Skill C	Skill D
↑	Highest level "stretch target"	Highest level "stretch target"	Highest level "stretch target"	Highest level "stretch target"
	High level	High level	High level	High level
	Medium level	Medium level	Medium level	Medium level
	Lowest level	Lowest level	Lowest level	Lowest level
	NOT SHOWN	*NOT SHOWN*	*NOT SHOWN*	*NOT SHOWN*
Criteria	Skill A	Skill B	Skill C	Skill D

Number of boxes filled	0-3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
%	40%	45%	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	80%	85%	90%	93%	97%	100%
Grade	US	E	E+	D	D+	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+	A+	A+	A+

- In our example, we add up the number of boxes filled or below the student's level – in this case it's 8 (Skill 1 = 2, Skill B = 3, Skill C = 2, Skill D = 1 and 2+3+2+1=8)
- Try and think about what kind of grade each level represents. In our example, a student getting the lowest level is an E/E+. The medium level is a C level. The high level is a B+/A level. The highest level is an A+ level.
- Students fail if they score poorly and also fail to show one or more skills. You could also simply make displaying each skill a hurdle requirement.
- The boxes *aren't* all worth the same amount. If they're worth the same amount, grades are too low. In general, more difficult skills (higher boxes) are worth less.
- It can be a good idea to make the conversion table after you have marked a class' worth of work. Then you can check that you're successfully converting their rubric result to a grade similar to what they would've got under the old system.
  - Your top student should usually be getting the highest grade.
  - Check what your average grade is - is this similar to what you would have had under your old system of grading? If not, adjust your conversion table.