



Justification Rubric

Focusing on justification has a long lasting impact on how students show connections and thinking during classwork, on homework, and on summative assessments. This language can support you in uncovering student thinking when circulating. A teacher might say, “That justification looks like it is developing, how could you make it robust?” In addition, students can support each other in their teams by safely critiquing their teammate’s justification using the rubric. A teacher may even assign a team role such as the recorder/reporter to check in on the justification in their teammates notebooks.

Sample Justification Rubric

Basic	Developing	Proficient	Robust
All questions are answered on the paper.	All questions are answered on the paper such that any classmate can easily understand the justification. It is easy to see how you arrived at your solution.	It is easy to see how you arrived at your solution and the justification is organized and may show previous attempts (right or wrong). Student justification often shows multiple representations (different ways to understand the solution i.e. Table/Graph/Rule.)	Their justification connects multiple representations and diagrams with arrows and written thoughts. The justification is clear so that all team members can understand their thinking.

It is a good idea for students to practice scoring other students' classwork before you require them to score a classmate's team assessment. You will also need to practice providing this feedback to your students before you assess them using the rubric. Using whole class discussions during closure you might have a discussion about how the students would evaluate your own justification.