

Grading and Feedback Best Practices

General Grading Goals

1. **Rigor:** Maintain high standards
2. **Consistency:** Similar feedback between different graders
3. **Fairness:** Similar feedback between different students
4. **Self-Care:** Don't spend excessive amounts of time grading

Grading should be...

- **Timely**
 - Aim for 2-3 day turnaround, or at least before the next set is due
- **Structured**
 - Plan how each question should be answered and graded
 - Schedule when grading should be completed and posted

Grading should not involve...

- Sharing or mentioning student grades to others
 - Student grades are protected by FERPA
 - Exception: Fellow TAs and instructor

Example Rubrics

Grading Criteria	Holistic score out of 10	Grading comments	Category	Criteria	Points Earned
Perfect solution	10		Part 1	Process (5 pts) Substitutes coefficients into the formula correctly (3 pts) Simplifies discriminant correctly (-28) (2 pts)	_____ / 5
Small mistakes that don't change the solution significantly.	8			Final Answer and Formatting (5 pts) Correct final roots $-1 \pm \sqrt{7}i$. Must receive all previous rubric items (3 pts) Answer clearly expressed in standard form $a \pm bi$. (2 pts)	_____ / 5
Most ideas are correct, but some conceptual errors exist.	6		Part 2	Conceptual Understanding (4 pts) Identifies vertex as the minimum point (2 pts) Correctly argues/paraphrases why parabola extends to ∞ . (2 pts)	_____ / 4
Some correct ideas are present.	4				
Some attempt at solving.	2				
Nonsensical or nonexistent solution.	0				

General Feedback Goals

1. **Constructive:** Areas for improvement are clear
2. **Targeted:** Explanation of where/why the error began
3. **Wise:** Leave encouraging comments indicating what the student did correctly to promote a growth mindset
4. **Standardized:** Use tools like Gradescope to apply similar comments to similar errors across different student submissions