Table 3.5 Generic Form of the Scale

Score 4.0	More complex content
Score 3.0	Target learning goal
Score 2.0	Simpler content
Score 1.0	With help, partial success at score 2.0 content and score 3.0 content
Score 0.0	Even with help, no success

To understand the scale, it is best to start with score 3.0. To receive a score of 3.0, a student must demonstrate competence regarding the target learning goal. A score of 2.0 indicates competence regarding the simpler content, and a score of 4.0 indicates competence regarding the more complex content. Scores 4.0, 3.0, and 2.0 involve different content, then, while scores 1.0 and 0.0 do not. A score of 1.0 indicates that, independently, a student cannot demonstrate competence in the score 2.0 or 3.0 content, but, with help, he or she demonstrates partial competence. Score 0.0 indicates that even with help, a student does not demonstrate competence or skill in any of the content.

Table 3.6 uses one of the learning goals about heritable traits described previously to show what a scale that has been filled in might look like.

Table 3.6 Scale for Goal 1

Score 4.0	Students will be able to discuss how heritable traits and nonheritable traits affect one another.
Score 3.0	Students will be able to differentiate heritable traits from nonheritable traits in real-world scenarios.
Score 2.0	Students will be able to recognize accurate statements about and isolated examples of heritable and nonheritable traits.
Score 1.0	With help, partial success at score 2.0 content and score 3.0 content
Score 0.0	Even with help, no success

Again, the score 3.0 content is the target learning goal. Thus, a teacher simply uses the target learning goal for the class as the score 3.0 content when designing a scale. The next whole-point score down is 2.0. The simpler content goes here. The next whole-point score up from the target learning goal (score 3.0) is 4.0. The more complex content goes there.

The score values of 1.0 and 0.0 do not represent new content, but they do represent different levels of competence. Score 1.0 indicates that the student does not demonstrate competence in any of the content when working independently. However, with help, the student has partial success at the score 2.0 and score 3.0 content. Score 0.0 indicates that even with help, the student has no success at the score 3.0 or 2.0 content.

Writing Scales in Student-Friendly Language

The scales described in the preceding text are written for the teacher; they are in teacher-friendly language. To make scales more useful to students, they should be written in student-friendly language. This should be done in cooperation with students. The teacher should introduce each scale to students as it is used in class; explain what is meant by the content placed at the score values 4.0, 3.0, and 2.0;