

Bridgewater State University
 Department of English
 June, 2010

English Department Placement Exam Rubric	
<u>Description of Text</u>	<u>Score</u>
<p>The essay addresses the requirements of the prompt. The author is aware of the needs of the intended audience. The essay takes a position, is well-organized, and makes a good argument for its position. The essay makes use of the prompt's specific information to support a position and may also provide additional information. The essay provides signaling information where necessary to introduce any quotations or paraphrases. The essay also makes appropriate use of cohesive devices such as transitions or repetition of key terms to orient the reader. Sentence structure is generally good, and includes some complex sentence structures. The vocabulary used in the essay is appropriate for the topic, the audience and the purpose. There may be spelling errors or some punctuation errors, but sentence boundaries are generally observed.</p>	3
<p>The essay generally addresses the requirements of the prompt. The essay seems to be trying to address the needs of the intended audience, although its efforts may not always be successful. The essay takes a position, has an apparent organization, and makes an argument for its position. The essay makes some use of the prompt's specific information to support a position and make an argument. The essay may not use signaling phrases when quoting or paraphrasing. The essay uses some cohesive devices to orient the reader. Sentence structure is generally sound, although there may be an occasional failure to punctuate a sentence boundary correctly; there may be more simple sentences than complex sentences, but the reader can follow the relationship of ideas. The vocabulary used is mostly appropriate for the topic, audience and purpose, although there may be an occasional diction shift. There may be spelling and punctuation errors.</p>	2
<p>The essay struggles to address the requirements of the prompt or may ignore those requirements; it may fail to create an argument or address the intended audience. The essay's position may be vague, or the essay may even switch positions on the topic. The essay makes little or no use of the specific information provided in the prompt or may seriously misuse this information. The organization of ideas in the essay may appear arbitrary. The essay uses few or no signaling phrases when quoting or paraphrasing. There may be little use of cohesive devices in the essay, or transitions may be inappropriately applied. There may be a number of sentence boundary errors (fragments, run-ons, comma splices), and sentence structures may be repetitive. The vocabulary used may not be suitable for the audience and purpose; there may be a number of lapses in diction, or the word choices may seem vague or immature. There may be spelling errors and a number of punctuation errors.</p>	1

The BSU English Department's Placement Essay Exam is intended to assist in the placement of entering students in ENGL 101 (Targeted), ENGL 101, or ENGL 102. Each essay exam is the student's response to a writing prompt, is written within 45 minutes, and is then independently and holistically scored by two readers drawn from the instructors of ENGL 101 and 102. Any disagreement in scoring between the two readers leads to a third evaluation of the essay by a reader unaware of the scores given by the first two readers.