

Berryman Essay Scoring Rubric

	Distinguished	Proficient	Apprentice	Novice
Focus	The essay contains a concise, original thesis statement that clearly gives a deeper understanding of the text.	The essay contains a clear thesis statement that gives a deeper understanding of the text.	The essay contains a thesis that reveals some understanding of the text.	The essay has no apparent thesis.
Content	The content of the essay clearly exemplifies an original interpretation in depth using multiple direct quotes.	The content of the essay defines and clarifies the interpretation that was identified in the thesis in sufficient depth with direct quotes for support.	The content of the essay relates in some way to an original interpretation.	The content of the essay does not remain focused on a single interpretation.
Organization	The essay is organized in a logical manner and allows the details to build upon one another to strengthen the author's argument.	The essay is organized in a logical, easy to follow manner.	The essay has some organization to it that the reader struggles with but is able to understand.	The essay has no clear organization.
Style	Sentence structures are illustrative and varied. Word choice is precise and original.	Sentence structures are generic and well-chosen, with appropriate word choice and transitions.	The sentence structures of the work are minimally varied and repetitive. Word choice is occasionally inappropriate.	The sentence structures are frequently flawed throughout the essay. Word choice is minimal and inappropriate.
Mechanics	No noticeable grammatical or spelling errors.	Few noticeable grammatical or spelling errors. There are either no recurrent errors, or one recurring error with no other errors throughout.	There are several repetitive flaws in grammar and spelling throughout the work.	There are severe, profound errors in grammar and spelling that inhibit the reader's understanding of the essay.
Documentation	There are no errors in the works cited or in in-text citations.	All quotes are cited properly, and all citations link back to a proper works cited page. There are few errors in either the works cited page or the in-text citations.	There are one or more severe errors in the documentation, both in the in-text citations and in the works cited.	There is either no works cited or no in-text citations.