

Personal Essay Grading Rubric

Scoring Components	Focus/Clarity	Thesis	Organization	Content	Grammar
4 Outstanding	Essay question(s) clearly addressed in a highly articulate manner	Thesis statement is well constructed.	Essay constructed in an organized, concise, logical manner. Transition sentences between paragraphs are used. Essay consists of more than one paragraph. Paragraphs build on and support the thesis statement.	Essay question(s) answered with superior depth of reasoning and thought. Response indicates that applicant is familiar with or engaged in "leg work" to become familiar to address philosophy and/or core values and attitudes of the OT profession as well as Belmont's program.	Free from grammatical and spelling errors.
3 Average	Essay question(s) addressed in a sufficient manner. Clarity is sufficient. No more than one comment is not directly related to the essay question(s).	The essay thesis statement is apparent but could have been better developed.	Essay adequately organized although paragraphs could have been better constructed or developed. May exhibit one of the following problems: problems with flow of sentences within paragraph, use of transition sentences between paragraphs, paragraph breaks may not correspond to shifts in topic.	Depth of thought is adequate although could have been further developed. Could have addressed philosophy and/or core values and attitudes of the OT profession as well as Belmont program in a more thorough manner.	No more than one or two errors with grammar/spelling.
2 Undeveloped / Insufficient	Essay question(s) not addressed OR addressed in a somewhat unclear or unfocused manner.	The essay thesis statement is not apparent or may be unclear.	Essay organization is insufficient. Sentences within paragraphs may be loosely connected. Paragraphs may not directly support the thesis statement. May exhibit more than one of the following: problems with flow of sentences within paragraph, use of transition sentences between paragraphs, paragraph breaks may not correspond to shifts in topic.	Essay content may be superficial or lack depth of thought.	More than two errors in spelling or grammar.