

24 student essays were evaluated over 2 years (2013-2014). The rubric used to grade the essays by two departmental readers (A and B) is shown below.

	Poor (2 points)	Satisfactory (5 points)	Excellent (8 points)	Outstanding (10 points)
<b>Main Thesis</b> (Does the response have a central clear idea about how the student's work as a scientist and his or her life as a Christian integrate with or relate to one another?)	No main thesis.	Contains a main idea, but main idea is weak.	Cogent, clearly stated thesis.	Strong, clearly stated, thesis.
<b>Support and Focus</b> (Does the body of the paper support the main idea or does it wander into irrelevant material?)	Body does not support the main idea.	Body moderately supports the main idea, but contains extraneous material.	Body supports main idea.	Body clearly and convincingly supports the main idea.
<b>Maturity and Depth of Thought</b> (Is the student's thinking at a mature level? Have they thought deeply about how these two parts of their lives integrate into a seamless whole?)	Ideas are immature and characteristic of those who have not thought deeply about the topic.	Ideas are okay and show some prolonged engagement with the topic.	Ideas are strong and show prolonged engagement with the topic.	Ideas are mature and well developed. The student has clearly thought about this a great deal.

2014	Main Thesis		Support and Focus		Maturity/Depth		Total Score		Average Score
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	
1		8		8		8	21	24	22.5
2		9		9		8.5	24	26.5	25.25
3		9		8.5		8	27	25.5	26.25
4		9		8		8	24	25	24.5
5		8		7.5		7	19	22.5	20.75
6		9		8		6.5	13	23.5	18.25
7		7.5		7.5		7	14	21.5	17.75
8		6		6		6	16	18	17
9		8		8.5		8	23	24.5	23.75
10		9		9		8.5	30	26.5	28.25
11		9		7		8	27	24	25.5
<b>Average</b>							<b>21.63636</b>	<b>23.77273</b>	<b>22.70455</b>
<b>Std dev</b>							<b>5.590576</b>	<b>2.453198</b>	<b>3.777926</b>
<b>% satisfactory or greater</b>							<b>82%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>% excellent or greater</b>							<b>36%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>55%</b>

2013	Main Thesis		Support and Focus		Maturity/Depth		Total Score		Average Score
Student	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	
1	9	8	8	7	8	7	25	22	23.5
2	7	5	7	7	7	7	21	19	20
3	7	6	6	6	5	5	18	17	17.5
4	8	7	5	5	6	6	19	18	18.5
5	9	7	9	8	9	7	27	22	24.5
6	7	7	5	6	6	4	18	17	17.5
7	9	7	8	8	9	9	26	24	25
8	10	10	10	9	9	8	29	27	28
9	8	7	6	6	7	5	20	18	19
10	10	8	9	9	9	9	28	26	27
11	7	8	6	5	6	6	19	19	19
12	10	8	8	8	9	7	27	23	25
13	10	9	10	8	10	9	30	26	28
<b>Average</b>							<b>23.61538</b>	<b>20.81818</b>	<b>21.77273</b>
<b>Std dev</b>							<b>4.51919</b>	<b>3.600505</b>	<b>3.907452</b>
<b>% satisfactory or greater</b>							<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>% excellent or greater</b>							<b>54%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>46%</b>

The average score for both years was about 22/30 (between satisfactory and excellent). In both years, 100% of the student scored satisfactory or better and about 50% scored excellent or better.

#### **Department Discussion Faith and Learning Essays.**

The department is pleased with student performance in this area. Our students are meeting our stated benchmark and we feel that no further action is necessary.