

## Criterion® Tips For Students

### ETS Criterion Writing Evaluation Pilot Program

This course is participating in a pilot through ISWI (Improving Student Writing Initiative) to explore new ways to assess student writing on our campus.

#### What is ETS Criterion?

ETS Criterion is a computer-based scoring program designed to help you think about your writing process and communicate your ideas more effectively. The system has been calibrated to score essays based on a national average of college-level essays. It will give you immediate feedback and provide guidance in specific areas if they need improvement.

You need to purchase the access folder " **COURSE SPECIFIC WRITING PRACTICE ACCESS**" by "Criterion" at the **Kennel Bookstore** to obtain the serial number you need to register. **You must purchase this item from the Kennel Bookstore in order to submit essay assignments for this course.** For more information and a video tour, go to <http://criterion.ets.org>.

**\*\*Please note: You only need ONE registration number per semester. You can use this same number for any classes that are using ETS Criterion. You will still need to register for each class separately, just be sure to use the same serial number. Don't buy more than one!**

#### How to register once you have purchased the serial number.

To log on the first time you will use the Class access ID and Password provided by your Instructor. After that you will use your own ID and password to log in.

Go To <http://criterion.ets.org>.

Click on "**Go To Student Criterion Website**"

Go to "**New Student Registration**" and enter:

**Class access ID**        \_\_\_\_\_ (use your class schedule number)

**Password**            \_\_\_\_\_ (provided by instructor)

**Serial#**              \_\_\_\_\_ purchased from Kennel Bookstore (found in "Course-Specific Writing Practice" folder)

**Enter your own user name and password (CSUF Student ID # and password of your choosing)**

**IMPORTANT!** Use your Fresno State **Student ID Number** and **Password** as log-in information!

**From now on, use your Student ID # and Password every time you log on to the ETS Criterion Web site.**

#### How to Log On Once You Have Registered:

1. Go To <http://criterion.ets.org>.
2. Click on "**Go To Student Criterion Website**"
3. Click on "Log In" (I already have a user name and password)
4. Enter the User Name and Password you used (NOT the Class ID your instructor provided)

#### How to Add an Additional Class:

Go To <http://criterion.ets.org>.

2. Click on "**Go To Student Criterion Website**"

3. Click on "Add Class" (I already have a User Name and Password, but I need to enroll in an additional class.)

4. Log in with student user name and password

5. Enter new Class ID and Password (provided by the instructor).

#### TIPS - How to get the most accurate feedback from ETS Criterion

Remember, ETS Criterion is not grading your paper! Only a qualified instructor can do that.

The scoring system is based on standard writing practices compared to thousands of other essays. It can give valid feedback, but it does not catch everything. It may also identify errors that are actually correct -especially when spelling technical terms or proper nouns.

## Criterion® Tips For Students

**Use these tips to get the most accurate feedback from the program:**

### Internet Access

All submissions are online through ETS Criterion. You will need Internet access to submit your assignments on ETS Criterion.

### Cut and Paste

If you wish to work offline first, you can write your assignment as a Word Document and then copy and paste it in. This saves you from having to spend so much time logged on to the site.

### Do Not Include Heading

Do not include any kind of heading in your submission (Name, date, title, etc.) This information will already be available to your instructor and it confuses the computer!

### Double-Space Between Paragraphs

Be sure to double-space between paragraphs by clicking on the **<Enter>** key twice. Otherwise it may result in inaccurate feedback and scoring.

### References/Citations

This program is not designed to identify citations within a paper, so if you include a parenthetical citation such as "(Garcia, p. 622)." it will be counted as an error. You need to allow for that when looking at feedback.

### Spelling

The computer uses a large dictionary, however, it may not include some technical terms or proper nouns. Use the spell-check as a guide, then double-check any terms that are identified as misspelled. That way you can be sure the spelling is accurate!

### Feedback

After you submit your essay, you will receive feedback within 20 seconds. When the evaluation is complete, the **Performance Summary** screen summarizing the evaluation of the essay will appear. You may also choose to print an **Expanded Performance Summary Report** that includes the prompt or question, the score and its analysis, the trait feedback with number of errors in each category, the specific kinds of error, and the text of the student's essay.

### Score Analysis – Trait Feedback

Click on the **View Score Analysis** link to see what the computer flags as possible errors.

To view elements of **Trait Feedback**, you can click on separate links to see results for each trait your instructor has made available. (*Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, Style, and Organization & Development*).

### Be a Critical Thinker

Read through the feedback and consider what changes you wish to make based on the feedback from the computer program. Read through the Writer's Manual carefully to help you determine the best way to correct errors and clarify what you want to say.

### Holistic Score

The Holistic Score is NOT an overall grade or score. It refers to the organization and general use of language and sentence structure. *Think of it as the degree of sophistication found in the writing.* This means that you could correct all grammatical errors and still have a low holistic score. You could also score 6/6 and still have a number of errors that need to be addressed!

### Text Editing

There are no holistic scores available in the "text edit" mode. You will only receive Trait Feedback for assignments in this mode.

### N/A\*

If the computer is confused by what you have submitted, N/A\* may show up as a holistic score. This means that there is an advisory warning for both you and your instructor. Sometimes it is for simple things (such as including a heading or forgetting to double-click between paragraphs) and other times it indicates a more serious problem. When you receive this, you may need to contact your instructor.