

## Tips for Writing Short-Answer Essays

Students are encouraged to read the Writing Tips provided under “Writing Tips and Rubric” in the Study Area of MasteringBiology [Essay grading rubric/criteria.docx](#), which also includes the suggested grading rubric.

<b>Suggested Grading Rubric for “Write About a Theme” Short-Answer Essays</b>				
	<b>Understanding of Theme and Relationship to Topic</b>	<b>Use of Supporting Examples or Details</b>	<b>Appropriate Use of Terminology</b>	<b>Quality of Writing</b>
<b>4</b>	Evidence of full and complete understanding	Examples well chosen, details accurate and applied to theme	Accurate scientific terminology enhances the essay	Excellent organization, sentence structure, and grammar
<b>3</b>	Evidence of good understanding	Examples or details are generally well applied to theme	Terminology is correctly used	Good sentence flow, sentence structure, and grammar
<b>2</b>	Evidence of a basic understanding	Supporting examples and details are adequate	Terminology used is not totally accurate or appropriate	Some organizational and grammatical problems
<b>1</b>	Evidence of limited understanding	Examples and details are minimal	Appropriate terminology is not present	Poorly organized; grammatical and spelling errors detract from essay
<b>0</b>	Essay shows no understanding of theme	Examples lacking or incorrect	Terminology lacking or incorrect	Essay is very poorly written