

## **Placement Essay Review Sheet**

To be considered ready for English 101, your essay must:

Address the prompt by;

- Engaging the global principle illustrated by the specific issue
- Displaying some awareness of different arguments and positions (there is more than “one side to every story”)

Show reasoning by:

- Demonstrating a working knowledge of essay structure (intro, body, conclusion, using paragraphs)
- Providing supporting evidence (usually from the prompt)

Develop argument by:

- Stating a thesis or guiding general idea
- Sustaining major claims with a generally progressive line of reasoning (ideas should follow each other in a sequence)

Complete paragraphs by:

- Indicating a single topic sentence
- Building progressively related claims

Correct grammar by:

- Demonstrating adequate sentence formation & variety
- Containing few grammatical and mechanical errors

Word Count

- In order for your essay readers to have enough of your writing to make an informed judgment regarding your placement, the English Department recommends that you attempt to write at least 250-350 words. 350 words is usually the equivalent of one type-written page.

### **Essay Resources**

Students wishing to prepare for the English section of the Heartland Community College Assessment may choose several resources for review:

**Purdue OWL-** The leading online resource for English help is from Purdue University. They have excellent samples and tips on argumentative writing

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/05/>

**English Textbooks** – Some textbooks used in Heartland English courses are available in Tutoring Services, which is located in the Library. These textbooks may be used within the confines of the Tutoring by supplying a form of identification.

**Tutors-** English tutors are available at Tutoring Services for help. Contact a tutor at [Tutoring@Heartland.edu](mailto:Tutoring@Heartland.edu) or 309-268-8231.