

Assessing the English Major Assessment Exam: ENGL 288 Case Study

Dan Ennis and Ellen Arnold

Department of English, Journalism, and Communication,
Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts

Abstract: Faculty will “assess” the English Department’s current nationally-normed assessment, the ETS Major Field Test in English. In a summer workshop, faculty teaching the core class ENGL 288 (Major Writers of British Literature) will coordinate syllabi, teaching some common “control” literary texts while also choosing a variety of alternative texts. Student enrolled in eight FA 06 sections of ENGL 288 will take the ETS test twice, once at the outset of the semester to establish a pre-class baseline, and again at the end of the semester to establish which combinations of texts had the most dramatic effect on student examination performance.