

Quality Focus Essay

- Continuous quality improvement is a mark of institutional effectiveness.
- As an institution evaluates its programs and services in the continuous cycle of data analysis, planning, resource allocation, and evaluation, it examines its effectiveness in accomplishing its mission **in the context of student learning and student achievement.**
- During that examination, it identifies areas of needed change, development, institutionalization, and expansion.
- Within the accreditation focus on continuous quality improvement, the institution will **identify two or three areas** coming out of the institutional self evaluation on which the institution has decided to act (**action projects**), and which will have significance over a multi-

year period.

- These will be described in a Quality Focus Essay (QFE). The Essay will have **a 5,000 word limit** and will discuss in detail
 - the identified areas to be acted upon,
 - including
 - responsible parties,
 - timeline,
 - and anticipated outcomes,
 - and the impact on academic quality and institutional effectiveness.

The Essay will be related to the Accreditation Standards; institutions should select the “action projects” for the QFE from college data and analysis.

- The projects described in the QFE should be realistic and culminate in a set of **observable and measurable outcomes.**

- The Essay should be consistent in its factual basis and analysis with the other portions of the college's Self Evaluation Report.
- It will provide the institution with multi-year, long-term directions for improvement and demonstrate the institution's commitment to excellence.
- The areas identified in the Essay will become critical focal points for the institution's Midterm Report.
- Evaluation teams and the Commission will comment on the institution's QFE and may offer constructive advice or assistance.

Manual for Institutional Self Evaluation, October 2015 Revised Edition, page 21.

[http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Manual for Institutional Self-Evaluation Oct 2015 Revised Edition.pdf](http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Manual%20for%20Institutional%20Self-Evaluation%20Oct%202015%20Revised%20Edition.pdf)