

Joel Tetrault - All Your Essay Are Belong To Us:
Automatically scoring test-taker writing with
e-rater

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One of the largest advances in large-scale educational assessment in the last twenty years has been the use of computer programs to automatically score student essays. The advantages of automatic scoring methods include faster and consistent score reporting as well as paving the way for online writing instructional tools for individual and classroom use. In this talk, I will discuss "e-rater", the automatic scoring tool developed by ETS which uses a host of linguistic and statistical features. First developed in 1998, it is one of the oldest and most mature operational essay scoring tools. e-rater is used to score high-stakes exams such as the TOEFL and GRE (in conjunction with human raters) as well as other assessments.