



Scholarship Essay Prompt

Data Informed Supervision

A reflection on measurement,
mentorship, and growth

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ABA is most often associated with **client-facing measurement**: tracking behavior, analyzing trends, and making data-based decisions about programming. That work is foundational.

But the same analytic mindset extends beyond the treatment room. The principles that guide individualized client care, like **objective measurement, data-based decision making, and feedback loops**, apply just as directly to how we supervise, coach, and develop the people delivering that care.

This prompt asks you to look at supervision through a behavior-analytic lens: to consider how **data can guide staff performance** and systems-level decisions, not just client outcomes.

About this Prompt

Introduction

This essay prompt is part of the Bierman Rising Clinician Scholarship. It is designed to help you reflect on how data-based decision making extends beyond client programming and into supervision and staff development.

You are not expected to propose a formal supervision model or demonstrate advanced management expertise. Instead, this prompt invites you to think critically about where data can strengthen supervision, and what role you might play in that work as a future clinician.

How to Use This Prompt

- Read the prompt carefully and consider a real or observed supervision experience.
- Reflect on what data revealed, or could have revealed, about staff performance.
- Connect your thinking to your personal path in ABA and the kind of supervisor or clinician you want to become.

Focus on reflection, not perfection.



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What we're looking for

This scholarship is designed to highlight:

- **Data-informed thinking** that extends beyond client programming
- **Honest, reflective self-assessment** of supervision experiences
- **Understanding of feedback loops** and performance improvement
- **A growth-oriented view** of what “progress” means, for clients and for teams

There are no right answers. Reviewers are looking for authenticity, curiosity, and a clear sense of how you hope to grow as a clinician.

Scholarship Essay Prompt

Data-Informed Supervision

ABA emphasizes **data-based decision-making** for clients, but effective supervision also relies on data for staff and systems.

In your essay, address the following:

1. Describe a time when your supervisor or you used (or could have used) data to guide supervision practices or staff performance improvement.
2. Explain the type of data, how it was analyzed, and what behavioral changes resulted.
3. Reflect on how applying data to supervision changed your view of what “**progress**” means, for both clients and teams.

Suggested length: 1,000–1,500 words

Format: PDF or DOCX



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Submission Requirements

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Have completed **at least 8 graduate credits** in an ABA master's program
- Be in good academic standing (if applicable)
- Submit an original essay response to the prompt

Essay File

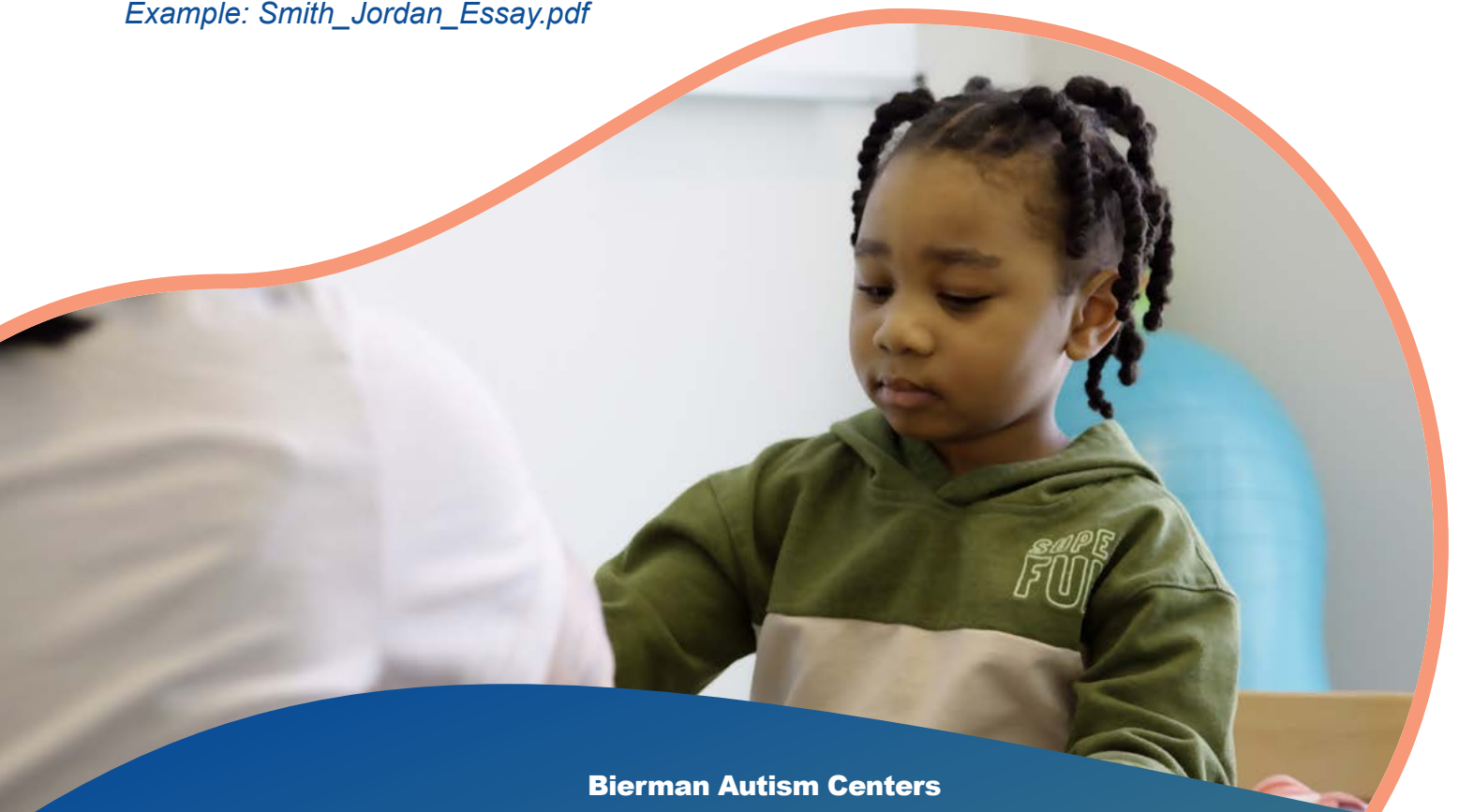
Your essay must begin with a cover page that includes your name, school/program, and contact information.

Everything after the cover page must **not** contain any identifying information, no name, school name, or other details that could identify you.

This allows for **blind, fair review**.

Save your file using this exact format: LastName_FirstName_Essay

Example: Smith_Jordan_Essay.pdf



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Transcript File

Upload a copy of your transcript showing **at least 8 completed graduate credits** in an ABA master's program. An unofficial transcript or screenshot is acceptable.

Save your file using this exact format: LastName_FirstName_Transcript

Example: Smith_Jordan_Transcript.pdf or Smith_Jordan_Transcript.png

Submission Details

Please submit your essay and transcript through the Bierman Rising Clinician Scholarship application page.

Link:

biermanautism.com/rising-clinician-scholarship

Questions? Contact:

scholarshipinfo@biermanautism.com

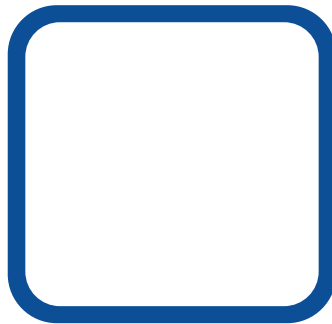
Submission Details

- **Applications open:** September 1, 2026
- **Applications close:** September 30, 2026
- **Winners announced:** November 6, 2026
(email and social media)

Important: AI use policy

Submissions suspected of being written by AI will not be scored and will be immediately disqualified.

The ideas and writing must be your own. Light editing tools (grammar, spell check) is acceptable, but AI-generated content is not permitted.



This essay prompt is provided as part of the Bierman Rising Clinician Scholarship.

Full Terms & Conditions and judging criteria are available at biermanautism.com/rising-clinician-scholarship.

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