



Essay Contest Judging Rubric

Name of Student: _____

School: _____

For each criterion listed, score the essay on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best score. Use a separate form for each essay. Do not score in decimals or fractions – whole numbers only. 5=Excellent 4=Above Average 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor/Incomplete

| Criteria | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| | Excellent | Above average | Average | Below average | Poor | |
| Understanding of the topic: To what extent did the writer demonstrate a clear understanding of the question and respond with details about his/her experience? | In-depth understanding: key concepts related to the question and the story are identified and fully defined; excellent use of literary techniques such as comparison and contrast | Key concepts related to the question and the story are adequately identified and defined; average use of literary techniques to describe viewpoints | Key concepts are partially identified and defined; statement that viewpoints exist but little use of supporting details | Some concepts are identified but not defined; lack of reference to any viewpoints | Complete lack of reference to the question and the story; irrelevant information; unsupported statements, incomplete details | |
| Original thinking relative to the topic: To what extent was the original thinking relative to the subject? | Fully, relative to the topic | Mostly relative to the topic without errors | Partially relative with minor errors | Somewhat relative with significant errors | Not relative to the topic at all | |
| Effectiveness in presenting a point-of-view: To what extent did the writer present his/her point of view? | Point-of-view fully presented and supported by many facts | Point-of-view presented and supported with some facts | Point-of-view expressed but limited use of factual information | Point-of-view presented without use of supporting facts/ opinion only | Facts are inaccurate Point of view not present | |
| Literary style, grammar and spelling | Literary style completely clear and effective, excellent grammar and spelling Varied sentence structure, essay well developed and cohesive | Literary style partially clear and effective, good grammar & spelling Sentence structure somewhat varied; essay well developed and cohesive | Use of literary technique to convey main ideas but lacking clarity Sentence structure lacks variety but essay mostly developed | Lacks use of literary technique Many errors in grammar and spelling | Irrelevant and/or erroneous information, main ideas unclear, illegible, grammar and spelling errors consistent throughout essay | |

Judge: _____

Total Score: _____