



Essay Contest Rubric

Essay Number: _____

Judge: _____

CRITERIA	4	3	2	1	SCORE
FOCUS/ MAIN POINT	This essay is focused, purposeful, and reflects original insight and ideas	The essay is focused on the topic and includes relevant ideas	The essay is focused on topic and includes few loosely related ideas	The essay poorly addresses topic and includes irrelevant ideas	
SUPPORT	Persuasively supports main point with well-developed reasons and/or examples	Supports main point with developed reasons and less concrete examples	Supports main point with some underdeveloped reasons or examples	Provides little or no support for the main point	
ORGANIZATION & FORMAT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs • Transitions 	Effectively organizes ideas to build a logical, coherent argument	Organizes ideas to build an argument	Some organization of ideas to build an argument	Little or no organization of ideas to build an argument, or contains fallacies in the argument	
LANGUAGE USE & STYLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence structure • Word choice • Audience recognition 	Effective and creative use of elements of style to enhance meaning	Appropriate use of elements of style	Some use of elements of style	Little or no use of elements of style	
CONVENTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar • Spelling • Punctuation 	Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation throughout with very few errors	Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation with few errors	Contains frequent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation	Many errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation; makes reader's comprehension difficult	

TOTAL POINTS _____

TOTAL: _____