

JUDGING CRITERIA - EACH ESSAY IS TO BE SCORED BY A MINIMUM OF **THREE (3)** JUDGES

This is an ESSAY contest. The winning entry will be determined solely on the following criteria. This is to be followed as closely as possible by all judges in order to standardize the contest. Each essay may receive a maximum of **100** points. Points are distributed as follows (the number in parentheses is the maximum number of points awarded for that category): **DO NOT DISCUSS ESSAYS OR READ OUT LOUD!**

The Judges will rank (not score) the essays, thus each judge may give partial points differently, but the total from all judges will select the "**best**" based on each judge's ranking. Each judge will be as objective as possible in all categories. The essay that a judge deems better, gets more points.

FORM

This is the structural part of the essay--the "**bones**" upon which the rest hangs. It is essential to support the essay so form is worth **30 points** as good form is expected. This allows more points for the subjective judging areas.

GRAMMAR (10) (spelling, punctuation, etc.) Applicants are urged to proofread their essays and to ask for additional proofreading assistance. There is no reason for mistakes.

ORGANIZATION (10) Organization of an essay means the pattern of ideas expressed by the applicant, most usually top to bottom in an essay of limited length. ***A disorganized essay should earn no points.***

CRAFTSMANSHIP (10) (use of proper words, sentence structure, paragraphing, etc.) This includes reasonable paragraphing and creative word use of any sort. (Paragraphs in right place, excellent construction, correct punctuation, etc., give **10 points**. ***Subtract points for run-on sentences, improper paragraphs, incorrect punctuation, etc.***)

CONTENT

This is the essential part of the essay. It must include the main and supporting ideas of the writer on the theme of this year's contest. This part is worth **50 points** because the two components cover the substance of the essay. The essay writer must have demonstrated preparation toward the goal stated.

MAIN IDEA(S) (25) It is essential that the theme of the contest is clearly addressed. (A strongly stated and clearly understood thesis ***gets 20 or near 20 points.***)

SUPPORTING IDEAS (25) The main ideas presented must be thoroughly discussed. The contestant can cite examples, observations, studies, experience, and activities in support of the main ideas of the essay.

IMPRESSION

This part is for the judge's reaction. It is worth **20 points** and gives latitude to the variety of opinions reflected in the judges.

PROGNOSIS (5) The judges must have the impression that the essay highlights the essence of the contest theme.

PERSONAL REACTION (15) This is the place for the judge's personal opinion. Also, the pathos/egotism abhorrence reaction can be reflected here. (If a judge loves it, give up to **15 points**. If he/she hates it, **0 points**. A judge may use the whole range with ***7-8 points being a neutral reaction.*** This is the only category in which a judge may show his/her subjective feelings about the essay.)