

Judging Rubric

This Judging Rubric will be used as a guide to rank the essays. Feel free to distribute to judges and participating students.

	Exceptional	Capable	Developing	Needs Improvement
ORGANIZATION/CLARITY	<p>The arrangement of examples and commentary enhances the writer's central argument. Ideas and arguments progress logically and effectively and clearly connect to the main thesis.</p> <p>All parts of the essay contribute to a single overall argument.</p>	<p>The organization of commentary and examples helps to convey the writer's central argument.</p> <p>Most parts of the essay contribute to a single argument, but there may be some extraneous details or commentary.</p>	<p>The organization of commentary and examples cloud the writer's central argument; some rearrangement would help.</p> <p>There are several areas of the essay that do not relate to the main insight. There may be some areas that are contradictory.</p>	<p>The organization is ineffective in revealing a central argument. Paragraphs do not clearly connect to one another.</p> <p>The essay is often contradictory without intending to be.</p>
CONTENT/INSIGHT	<p>Essay contains exceptional insights and complex ideas. The writer demonstrates a deep, fresh understanding of the subject.</p> <p>Provides relevant, substantial, concrete and genuine examples that clearly support the central argument.</p>	<p>Essay contains some insights. The writer demonstrates an adequate understanding of the subject, but some ideas could have been explored further.</p> <p>Provides reasonable and predictable examples that develop the central argument.</p>	<p>Main argument of the essay is simplistic. The paper may be contradictory or too broad, rather than making a simple point.</p> <p>Some examples are useful but others may not illustrate the main point. Examples need further development.</p>	<p>Main argument of the essay is limited or unclear.</p> <p>Provides few or irrelevant examples to support an undeveloped or unclear central argument.</p>
STUDENT VOICE/STYLE	<p>Shows exceptional awareness of audience, control of voice, variety in sentence structure, sophisticated word choice, and smooth transitions.</p>	<p>Shows awareness of audience, control of voice, some variety in sentence structure and word choice with some smooth transitions.</p>	<p>Shows inconsistent awareness of audience, simplistic word choice, little variety of sentence structure, and limited use of transitions.</p>	<p>Shows limited awareness of audience, minimal or incorrect word choice, little or no variety of sentence structure, and few or no transitions.</p>
MECHANICS/CONVENTIONS	<p>Free from errors in grammar, usage, and the conventions of written English.</p>	<p>May have a few errors in grammar, usage, or conventions of written English; these errors do not cause confusion.</p>	<p>May have errors in grammar, usage, or conventions of written English; these errors may lead to some confusion.</p>	<p>May have a variety of repeated errors in sentence structure, grammar, usage, and the conventions of written English; these errors often cause confusion.</p>