

Evaluation Rubric

Middle School Writing

	5	4	3	2	1
Message	The piece has a well-expressed message that is strongly connected to the subject matter, and reflects deep critical thinking about the subject.	The piece has a clearly expressed message that is relevant to the subject matter, and reflects critical thinking about the subject.	The piece has a message that is connected to the subject matter, but may lack relevance, or which reflects only a basic understanding of the subject.	The piece has a message that is unclear or must be inferred, or that is not relevant to the subject.	The piece has no discernable message.
Connection to Theme	The Competition Theme is strongly integrated into the piece. Ideas are strongly developed, historically accurate, and may inspire further contemplation and/or action from the reader.	The Competition Theme is integrated into the piece. Ideas are well developed and historically accurate.	The Competition Theme is alluded to or referenced by the piece. Ideas are well developed and historically accurate.	The piece's connection to the Competition Theme is unclear or must be inferred. Ideas may be poorly developed or historically inaccurate.	The piece does not address the Competition Theme.
Connection to Prompts	The piece directly and strongly engages and addresses the Competition Prompts.	The piece engages and addresses the Competition Prompts.	The piece attempts to address the Competition Prompts, but the connection may be unclear.	The piece merely alludes or refers to the Competition Prompts.	The piece does not attempt to engage the Competition Prompts.

	5	4	3	2	1
Statement of Purpose	The Statement of Purpose clearly and eloquently expresses the writer's message, meaning, and connection to the Theme and Prompts.	N/A	The Statement of Purpose expresses the writer's message, meaning, and connection to the Theme and Prompts.	N/A	The Statement of Purpose is unclear or does not express the writer's message, meaning, and connection to the Theme and Prompts.
Voice & Style	The piece is written with a strong voice and thematic style. Ideas are clearly expressed and well developed. The piece demonstrates careful thought and analysis. It has strong human interest and appeal that emotionally engages the reader and tells the story with effect.	N/A	The piece is written with a voice and thematic style that may be uneven in their effectiveness. Ideas are clearly expressed, but may not always be well developed. The piece attempts to emotionally engage the reader and tell the story with effect.	N/A	The piece lacks a voice or thematic style. Ideas are unclear or undeveloped. The piece fails to emotionally engage the reader or tell the story with effect.
Mechanics & Structure	Writing is well organized and coherent. It does not contain errors in spelling, grammar, or formatting.	N/A	Writing is organized and coherent. It may contain errors in spelling, grammar, and formatting that do not reduce the effectiveness of the piece.	N/A	Writing is disorganized or incoherent. It may contain errors that reduce the effectiveness of the piece. It may lack care and attention to detail.