

Art & Writing  
 COMPETITION

Evaluation Rubric

High School and Middle School Writing

|                                  | 5  | 4   | 3  | 2   | 1  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Message</b>                   | 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.                        |
| <b>Connection to Theme</b>       | 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 Competition Theme is unclear or must be inferred by the reader. Ideas may be poorly developed or historically inaccurate. | The piece does not address the Competition Theme.            |
| <b>Connection to Inspiration</b> | The Competition Inspiration is strongly integrated into the piece.   | The Competition Inspiration is integrated into the piece.   | The Competition Inspiration is alluded to or referenced by the piece.  | Connection to the Competition Inspiration is unclear or must be inferred by the reader.                                       | The piece does not address the Competition Inspiration.      |
| <b>Connection to Prompt</b>      | The piece directly and strongly engages and addresses the Competition Prompt.  | The piece engages and addresses the Competition Prompt.   | The piece attempts to address the Competition Prompt, but the connection may be unclear.   | The piece merely alludes or refers to the Competition Prompt.   | The piece does not attempt to engage the Competition Prompt. |

|                                  | 3   | 2  | 1  |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Statement of Purpose</b>      | Statement of Purpose clearly and eloquently expresses the writer's message, meaning, and connection to the theme, inspiration, and prompt.  | Statement of Purpose expresses the writer's message, meaning, and connection to the theme, inspiration, and prompt.  | Statement of Purpose is unclear or does not explain the writer's message, meaning, and connection to the theme, inspiration, and prompt.     |
| <b>Voice &amp; Style</b>         | Written with a strong voice and thematic style. Ideas are well developed and clear. Careful thought and analysis. Has strong human interest and appeal that emotionally engages the reader and tells story with effect. | Written with voice and thematic style that may be uneven in its effectiveness. Ideas are clearly expressed but may not always be well developed. Attempts to emotionally engage the reader and tell the story with effect. | Lacks voice or thematic style. Ideas are undeveloped or unclear. Fails to engage the reader emotionally or tell the story with effect.       |
| <b>Mechanics &amp; Structure</b> | Writing is well organized and coherent. Contains no errors spelling, grammar, and formatting.   | Writing is organized and coherent. May contain errors in spelling, grammar, and formatting that do not reduce the effectiveness of the piece.  | Writing is disorganized or incoherent. May contain errors that reduce the effectiveness of the piece. May lack care and attention to detail. |