

Essay Writing

The contestant must compose and submit in writing an original essay. The contestant should keep in mind his purpose for the essay, that is, why he is writing it, and what effect he is attempting to achieve. The essay must be approved by the sponsor to assure authenticity and originality.

Three copies of the final essay along with judging sheets for each should be mailed. The original should be maintained by the home school. Be sure each entry is labeled correctly with the student's name, grade, and school. The finished poems are to be mailed to the judging school by the date given.

Fourth through twelfth grades will be given a topic by February 20th. Fourth through ninth grade is narrative and tenth through twelfth grade should be expository essays. The topic and starting sentence will be kept hidden until given out at the local school. The local school monitors the students as they will have one or two hours to write. The final copy must be turned in at the end of the allotted time. The essays will then be collected and mailed to the competition.

The essay must have been written during the school assigned one hour (4th-9th grads) or two-hour (10th-12th grades) block during the school day. It must be the original and authentic work of the student. Plagiarism of any kind will automatically disqualify the entry. Only one essay per contestant is allowed. Approval by sponsor will assure authenticity and originality.

JUDGING FORM - EXPOSITORY WRITING: ESSAY (10-12th Grade)

Name	School
Title:	

Content:	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Does the composition have a strong thesis	10	
Does it contain logical arguments in support of the thesis	15	
Are there sufficient supporting details	15	
Does the writer avoid emotional appeals	10	

Organization:	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Does the essay have an effective introduction that prepares the reader for the thesis?	5	
Is there logical paragraphing with strong topic sentences?	10	
Does the conclusion provide a sense of closure for the argument?	5	

Style:	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Is the writer's vocabulary and word usage effective?	5	
Is the sentence structure varied and correct?	5	
Does the writer demonstrate creativity in addressing the subject?	5	

Writing Mechanics:	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Is the spelling correct?	5	
Is the grammar correct?	5	
Is the punctuation correct?	5	

Comments:

(Judges Signature)