

Scoring

The following rubric will be used to score all writing competition submissions.

| Rubric | Exemplary 4 points | Proficient 3 points | Developing 2 points | Needs Improvement 1 points |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Clarity – 60% (Thesis supported by relevant information and ideas) | The central purpose is clear, and supporting ideas are consistently well-focused. Details are relevant and add depth. | The central purpose is clear, and ideas are mostly focused in a way that supports the thesis. Relevant details illustrate the author's points. | The central purpose is identifiable, though some ideas only partially support the thesis. | The purpose is unclear, and many ideas do not support the thesis. Thoughts appear disconnected. |
| Organization – 20% (Sequencing of elements/ideas) | Information and ideas are presented in a logical sequence that flows smoothly and is easy to follow. | Information and ideas are presented in a logical sequence that the reader can follow with little difficulty. | Information and ideas are presented in an order that is sometimes unclear, though the main thread can usually be followed. | Information and ideas are poorly sequenced, making it difficult for the reader to follow the overall argument. |
| Mechanics – 20% (Correctness of grammar and spelling) | Writing is free of errors in grammar and spelling, or contains only minor errors that do not distract from readability. | Occasional grammar or spelling errors are present, but they cause little interruption to readability. | Frequent grammar or spelling errors distract from the writing and affect readability. | Numerous grammar or spelling errors significantly interfere with readability. |