

## 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
<b>Clarity – 60%</b> (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.
<b>Organization – 20%</b> (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.
<b>Mechanics – 20%</b> (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.