

Holistic Scoring Guide - **Argument**
 Inklings Writing Competition
 2024

Superior: 40-50 points total

Excellent: 16-39 points total

Developing: 0-15 points total

Criteria	Superior (8-10 points)	Excellent (4-7 points)	Developing (0-3 points)
Controlling idea/claim	The writer clearly establishes a controlling idea that identifies a position on a problem or issue. Claims are clear and support the controlling idea.	The controlling idea is evident and a position on a problem or issue is articulated. Claims are connected to the controlling idea.	The controlling idea is unclear or the claims are not clearly connected to the main idea.
Organization, style & voice	It is immediately clear what the essay is about and the author's stance is evident. The style is academic with sources cited. The voice is coherent and confident.	It is clear what the essay is about and the author's stance is evident. The style is academic with sources cited (in text at least) and the author's voice is credible.	It is unclear what the essay is about or the author's stance is vague or confusing. The style is too casual or sources are not carefully cited.
Evidence, reasons & warrants - logical presentation of argument	Reasons, evidence, and analysis explain or justify the claims in a thoroughly convincing way.	Reasons explain or justify the claims. The writer explains the connection between claims and evidence with some success.	Evidence and reasons fail to explain or justify claims.
Presentation	Writing is polished and exceptional for a writer of that age/grade.	Writing is polished and a wonderful example of writing for that age/grade.	Writing is not quite ready for competition and needs to be refined.
Impact	The writer makes a strong case for the position stated in the controlling idea through a logical presentation of the argument. It's a powerful piece - cohesive, on-point, and convincing.	The writer makes a case for the position stated in the controlling idea through a presentation of the argument. The writer makes some good points in their argument.	The writer does not present a case that is ultimately proven or explained. .

Holistic Scoring Guide - Fiction/Poetry

Inklings Writing Competition

2024

Superior: 40-50 points total

Excellent: 16-39 points total

Developing: 0-15 points total

Criteria	Superior (8-10 points)	Excellent (4-7 points)	Developing (0-3 points)
Ideas and Elaboration	Writer demonstrates clarity in the controlling idea of the piece. Writing is focused with vivid details; it is original and interesting.	Writer demonstrates clarity of focus. Rich detail is present. Writing is original.	The reader is not certain what the piece is about. More details would make for a more interesting and engaging read.
Organization and Style	Organization is sophisticated and engaging in the way the piece unfolds. Interesting details, carefully chosen language, and literary devices are woven naturally into the writing.	The poem or story's organization is logical and clearly understandable. Details and literary devices are present.	The organization or structure is not clear. More detail is needed to flesh out the piece. Literary tools are not used by the author or they distract from enjoyment of the piece.
Voice & Tone	There is a strong sense of the individual's voice in the writing. The tone shows awareness of the purpose and audience. Style includes varied sentence structures and word choice. The writing is enjoyable and effortless to read.	Some sense of individual voice is present in the writing. Tone shows awareness of the audience. Writing has a consistency throughout and is coherent. There are a variety of sentence structures and interesting word choices.	It's unclear if the writer created the piece for personal enjoyment or for an audience. Usage of sentence structure, word choice, and/or punctuation make the piece difficult to read.
Presentation	Writing is polished and exceptional for a writer of that age/grade.	Writing is polished and a wonderful example of writing for that age/grade.	Writing is not quite ready for competition and needs to be refined.
Impact	The piece offers a powerful message or leaves a lasting impact on the reader. The writing "packs a punch" whether it is fun, dramatic, scary, sincere, insightful, etc.	This piece is easy-to-read and technically an excellent piece of writing. Its lasting impact is more of "a good story, well told."	While not a memorable piece, aspects of it are well done.