

Judging Criteria

Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges unfamiliar with the contestants.

To conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the Four-Way Test Entry Form and page 1 of the essay. The Four-Way Test Entry Form will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essays bearing only the assigned numbers.

Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.
Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

Material Organization

- the interpretation of the subject
 - a clear presentation of the writer's concept
 - dedication to research
 - the logical organization of the supporting facts should be considered.
- The maximum point award is **60 points**.

Vocabulary and Style

- The choice of words
 - use of descriptive phrases
 - clear sentence structure
 - illustration of the topic is considered.
- The maximum point award is **30 points**.

Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling

- Consider such factors as subject and verb agreement
 - plurals of nouns
 - verb tense
 - punctuation and capitalizing
- The maximum point award is **10 points**.