

Youth Leadership Program Essay Judging Rubric

Student Number: _____ Judge: _____

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	Score
	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	
Understanding the topic: To what extent did the student demonstrate a clear understanding of the topic?	In-depth understanding: key concepts related to the topic are fully identified; extraordinary use of techniques such as comparison and contrast	Key concepts related to the topic are identified and well defined; wonderful use of techniques to describe viewpoints	Key concepts are included; viewpoints and supporting details are used	Some concepts are identified but not defined; lack of reference to any viewpoint	Complete lack of reference to the topic; irrelevant information; unsupported statements, incomplete details	
Effectiveness in presenting a point-of-view: To what extent did the student present his/her point of view?	Point-of-view is fully displayed and is supported by multiple credible facts and discerning opinions that inspire the reader	Point-of-view is presented and supported with credible facts, clear understanding, and valuable opinions	A point-of-view is expressed with obvious research and a clear understanding is presented	Point-of-view presented without evident research and clear understanding	Limited viewpoint	
Organization: To what extent did the student organize and complete his/her thoughts?	The high-quality writing includes a strong beginning, middle and end with clear transitions; a compelling reinforcement of the thesis, and a call for further examination	Well organized essay with correct format, structure, and a coherent closure that encourages the reader	Essay is organized. Transitions are apparent and closure is effective	Essay is underdeveloped with weak transitions and closure	Disorganized and underdeveloped essay with no transitions or closure	
Style, grammar/ spelling, 500 minima to 700 word maximum, followed instructions: Times New Roman font with a 12-point font size	Literary/presentation style completely clear and effective, perfect grammar and spelling, all guidelines were followed without exception	Literary/presentation style is clear and effective, grammar and spelling are superior Sentence structure is varied; essay was well developed and cohesive	Demonstrates a use of literary techniques to convey main ideas. Sentence structure is good, and the theme is adequately developed	Lacks adequate use of literary/presentation technique Multiple errors in grammar, spelling and/or presentation	Irrelevant and/or incorrect information, main ideas are unclear, grammar, spelling, and/or consistent throughout	
Creativity: To what extent did the student broaden the impact and provide a more meaningful discussion of the topic?	Unique submission, imaginative, shows thoughtful understanding, engaging and attention grabbing throughout	The submission was created with imagination. Engaging in several sections	Unique submission with imaginative parts. Engaging in more than one section	Lacks unique insight and imagination. Interesting in parts but not sustained	Unoriginal. Lacks imagination	

Total: _____