



The Sutton Award

For Excellence in Communicating Current Conservation Issues

Essay Contest Judging Rubric

For each criterion listed, score the essay on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the best score. Use a separate form for each essay. Do not score in decimals or fractions – whole numbers only. 5=Excellent 4=Above Average 3=Average 2=Below Average 1=Poor/Incomplete

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	Score
	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor	
Understanding of the topic: To what extent did the writer demonstrate a clear understanding of the question and respond with details about his/her experience?	In-depth understanding: key concepts related to the question and the story are identified and fully defined; excellent use of literary techniques such as comparison and contrast	Key concepts related to the question and the story are adequately identified and defined; average use of literary techniques to describe viewpoints	Key concepts are partially identified and defined; statement that viewpoints exist but little use of supporting details	Some concepts are identified but not defined; lack of reference to any viewpoints	Complete lack of reference to the question and the story; irrelevant information; unsupported statements, incomplete details	
Original thinking relative to the topic: To what extent was the original thinking relative to the subject?	Fully, relative to the topic	Mostly relative to the topic without errors	Partially relative with minor errors	Somewhat relative with significant errors	Not relative to the topic at all	
Effectiveness in presenting a point-of-view: To what extent did the writer present his/her point of view?	Point-of-view fully presented and supported by many facts	Point-of-view presented and supported with some facts	Point-of-view expressed but limited use of factual information	Point-of-view presented without use of supporting facts/ opinion only	Facts are inaccurate Point of view not present	
Literary style, grammar and spelling	Literary style completely clear and effective, excellent grammar and spelling Varied sentence structure, essay well developed and cohesive	Literary style partially clear and effective, good grammar & spelling Sentence structure somewhat varied; essay well developed and cohesive	Use of literary technique to convey main ideas but lacking clarity Sentence structure lacks variety but essay mostly developed	Lacks use of literary technique Many errors in grammar and spelling	Irrelevant and/or erroneous information, main ideas unclear, illegible, grammar and spelling errors consistent throughout essay	

Total Score: _____