

Leadership in Writing Bee – 2005
Senior Level - Grades 9 thru 12
Factors to be judged upon

Leadership

Creativity: Presents novel ideas that are highly original, even if they are controversial, both in approach and treatment of the topic.

Out of the box thinking: Evidence of innovative ways of thinking. Writer avoids rear-view mirror of the world & dreams outside the box.

Conviction and passion: Writer seems convinced of what works, believes beyond belief, and has passion to tell a convincing story.

Quick on the feet: Writer is clearly on task and presents ideas clearly, concisely, and sharply connects to the topic.

Persuasive: Evidence of convincing and coherent line of argument.

Motivating: Evidence of audience awareness and ability to inspire audience.

Communication

Introduction & conclusion: The introduction is specific, elegant, and unified. Conclusion, rather than simply summarizing the argument, goes further in some way – by considering larger questions, relating to modern society or to other works, etc.

Articulation: Articulates in ways that captivates the audience.

Clarity: Presence of clarity and effectiveness of style and coherence of the piece.

Subject Knowledge

Scope: Clear evidence of both breadth and depth of the topic. Essay is not very superficial. Each point is supported by evidence or examples. There are no unsupported generalizations or assumptions.

Presentation: Structure is logical and easy to determine. In addition, transitions connect points and demonstrate how each point builds on those that have come before.

Bigger Picture: All implications of points are considered, and the author does not grasp after easy solutions. Nor does s/he oversimplify ambiguity or fail to consider counter-arguments.

Language

Organization: Each body paragraph has a topic sentence that makes a compelling point and relates the paragraph to the argument as a whole.

Integration: Each paragraph unifies, and each point is developed as far as it can possibly go without endangering the coherence of the essay.

Quality: Writing style is elegant and correct, with no grammar or verb tense errors, vague, flowery language, word choice problems, or banal, overused expressions