

Sample guidelines. Please do not feel you must address each bullet point in a feature. These are merely examples to help the judges guide their thought process. Think about these guidelines as they might apply to your submission category. For example, a poem might incorporate some unconventional grammar or spelling. If your “mistakes” are intentional, then they aren’t mistakes so long as your writing makes it clear you are exercising your creative license.

Entry Number:

Total Score:

Features	Exemplary	Accomplished	Developed	Beginning
Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused, engaging main topic that captures attention in imaginative way • Complex characters developed through dialogue, narration, and action • Wide range of details provided support the main idea and create vivid picture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused topic, may be obvious • Characters developed through dialogue, narration, and action • Supporting details mostly stay on topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main topic evident but vague • Some characters developed; little blending of dialogue, narration, and action • Details lead to tangents, and lead reader to guess what they mean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main and purpose topic unclear • Characters not developed • Many details detract from the story
Organization/ Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorable introduction that invites readers • Logical transitions between scenes • Thoughtful pacing • Conclusion gives a sense of completion • Overall, order moves ideas forward and enhances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction invites readers • Transitions between scenes • Pacing is inconsistent but somewhat controlled • Conclusion gives a sense of an ending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction present, but not engaging • Few transitions • Order leads the reader slightly confused • Main topic focus sometimes lost • Conclusion completes idea, but does not get sense of an ending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little to no introduction • No transitions • Pacing is awkward or frustrating • No conclusion, story just ends • No identifiable structure
Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author’s personality expressed • Compelling tone • Aware and connected to audience • Evokes strong feelings from reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personality present, but fades in some areas • Aware and connected to audience • Some feelings evoked from reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little personality present or sometimes changes • Shows awareness of audience, but not always connected • Limited emotion evoked from reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No personality • Inappropriate for story purpose and audience • Sounds flat and monotone • Indifferent and distanced from story • No emotion evoked from reader
Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences read smoothly and have a cadence • Sentence structure are varied and complex which invites expressive reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied sentence structure • Most sentences sound smooth when read out loud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences may contain unnecessary words, but maintain meaning • Some variety in structure and follow predictable pattern when read out loud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence contain unnecessary words that confuse reader • Little to no variety in structure • Lack rhythm
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong grasp of conventions • Mastery of grammar • No spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few writing conventions • Some grammar errors but story is still clear • No spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few writing conventions • Grammar errors that confuse reader • Some spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous grammar errors that detract from the story • Numerous spelling errors.

Comments: