

Extemporaneous Essay Ballot

No prepared notes or outlines will be allowed in the room. Reference to books, magazines and a bibliographical file is permitted. Students can bring their own reference material BEFORE they select a topic. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification from the tournament.

NOTE: Students do NOT have to use references. However, if a student uses references and does NOT cite them, DEDUCT 2 points.

Pts Rcvd

1. Ideas and Development: (25 points – 5 pts each)

- _____ Did the writer answer one of the above questions with sufficient detail
- _____ Did the Writer use a balance of showing and telling to paint a picture in the reader's mind?
- _____ Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the topic?
- _____ Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire essay?
- _____ Was the theme or message clear to the reader?

2. Organization: (30 points – 5 pts each)

- _____ Did the introduction grab the reader's attention with a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise controls?
- _____ Did the writer use transition words to move from idea to idea and from paragraph to paragraph?
- _____ Was there adequate amount of details, examples, and support for each control? Did the supporting details reflect the thesis statement?
- _____ Does the title stand for the entire essay and not just a part of it?
- _____ Did the conclusion link back to the introduction and leave a lasting impression on the reader?
- _____ Did the writer tie the essay together in his/her conclusion and was there a note of finality?

3. Word Choice: (12 points – 3 pts each)

- _____ Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives that helped create an image in the readers mind?
- _____ Did the writer use strong action verbs that help support the essay's message? (Ex: "cruise" instead of "drive" or "stroll" instead of "walk")
- _____ Did the writer use precise nouns that helped present a clear and distinct message? (Ex: "7th Grade students" instead of just "students" or "Science project" instead of "project")?
- _____ Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the description? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

