

Juneteenth Writing Competition Scoring Rubric: Essay

TRAITS	4	3	2	1
Focus & Details	There is one clear, well-focused topic, which addresses one of the Juneteenth themes provided in the rules. Main ideas are clear and well supported by detailed, accurate information.	There is one clear, well-focused topic, which addresses one of the Juneteenth themes provided in the rules. Main ideas are clear but not well supported by detailed information.	There is one topic. The paper attempts to address a provided Juneteenth theme. Main ideas are somewhat clear. Few details are provided.	The topic and main ideas are not clear and/or the paper does not address a Juneteenth theme.
Organization	The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, and provides an overview of the paper. Information is relevant and presented in a logical order. The conclusion is strong.	The introduction states the main topic and provides an overview of the paper. A conclusion is included.	The introduction states the main topic. A conclusion is included.	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
Voice	The voice is unique, confident, and original. Phrasing and language are memorable, and the writing conveys feeling and meaning throughout the piece. The author's extensive knowledge and/or experience with the topic is evident. There is a strong sense of audience.	Awareness of voice and audience are evident. The author uses language that creates feeling or meaning. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is evident. The writing conveys a sense of the author and their intention.	There is some evidence of attention to audience. The author's use of language does little to create feeling or meaning. The author's knowledge and/or experience with the topic is limited. The piece lacks interest.	There is no evidence of attention to audience. The language lacks tone or style and does not convey feeling or meaning.
Word Choice & Sentence Structure	Word choice is sophisticated, vivid, precise, and effective. Sentence structure is varied throughout.	Word choice is varied, effective, and seems deliberate. Sentence structure is varied.	Some effective word choice. Occasional variation of sentence structure.	Word choice is elementary. Very little sentence structure variety.
Conventions	Few or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	Some errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling, but they do not affect the understanding or feeling of the piece.	The piece is difficult to understand at times because of errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	The piece is consistently difficult to understand because of errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.