

Juneteenth Writing Competition Scoring Rubric: Poetry

TRAITS	4	3	2	1
Organization and Overall Impact	The poem’s form and format are appropriate to the subject. The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new or more potent way. The poem elicits an emotional response in the reader.	The poem’s form and format are appropriate to the subject. The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject. The poem creates/holds interest for the reader.	The poem’s form and format should be more appropriate to the subject. The poem enables the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject, but uses tired clichés and images and other predictable choices.	The poem’s form and format are not appropriate to the subject. The poem does not enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject.
Elements of Poetry	Sensory details and figurative language (metaphor, simile) create vivid images that contribute significantly to the understanding of the poem. Sound devices (i.e. rhyme, alliteration, repetition, onomatopoeia) are used effectively. Word choice is vivid and exact throughout.	Sensory details and figurative language (metaphor, simile) contribute to the understanding of the poem. Sound devices (i.e. rhyme, alliteration, repetition, onomatopoeia) are used somewhat effectively. Most word choices are precise.	Sensory details and figurative language (metaphor, simile) may be overused, underused or inappropriate to the subject. Sound devices (i.e. rhyme, alliteration, repetition, onomatopoeia) may be overused, underused, or fail to add to the poem. Word choices may be imprecise or lackluster.	There is little, no—or consistently confusing— use of sensory details, figurative language, or sound devices. Words may be imprecise or misused.
Conventions (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling)	There are 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 poem.	The poem is difficult to understand at times because of errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	The poem is consistently difficult to understand because of errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.