

Juneteenth Writing Competition Scoring Rubric: Song

TRAITS	4	3	2	1
Organization and Impact of Lyrics	The song's lyrics express information in an organized, creative, outstanding, and memorable way. They make it easy to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new or more potent way. The song elicits an emotional response.	The song's lyrics express information in an organized and creative way. They make it easy to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject. The song creates/holds interest.	The song's lyrics are somewhat coherent but show little effort to express information and/or lack organization. The song uses tired clichés and images and other predictable choices.	The song's lyrics are not coherent, nor the words memorable. The song contains little information, is unorganized, and does not hold interest.
Theme and Figurative Language	The song deeply and meaningfully addresses a clear theme and appropriately uses sensory details, sound devices (alliteration, repetition, and rhyme), and figurative language (metaphor and simile).	The song meaningfully addresses a clear theme and attempts to use sensory details, sound devices (alliteration, repetition, and rhyme), and figurative language (metaphor and simile).	The song's theme is unclear and contains few/no sensory details, sound devices, or figurative language.	The song has no theme and contains no sensory details, sound devices, or figurative language.
Creativity & Style	The song is presented with style, flair, and pride in presentation. Strong volume and tone fit the lyrics and mood, and lyrics are clearly understood. Song is 2-3 minutes long with less than a 1-minute music break.	The song is presented with style, flair, and pride in presentation with minor errors. Volume and tone fit lyrics and mood; most lyrics understood. Song is 2-3 minutes long, including a 1-minute music break.	The song is presented with little creativity and/or style and notable errors. Volume and tone are inconsistent with the lyrics and mood. The lyrics are not easily understood. Song is under 2, or more than 3, minutes long.	The song is presented with little to no creativity and/or style and many errors. Volume is too loud or too soft. Tone does not match the lyrics or mood. Lyrics are unclear. Song is under 2 minutes long.
Conventions (Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling)	There are few or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling. We recognize slang or dialect may be an important factor in songs.	Some errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling, but they do not affect the understanding or feeling of the song. Slang or dialect may be used.	The song is often difficult to understand because of errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling beyond the use of slang or dialect.	The song is consistently difficult to understand because of errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling beyond the use of slang or dialect.