Judge: _____   Entry: _____

Criteria for Judging Creative Writing - Non-Fiction

These catgories and levels are to give judges a consistent measurement scale for evaluating the materials.   Judges are encouraged to include their own experience to judge the writing, but scoring should reflect these descriptions. Judges are also encouraged to add notes for the writer, with suggestions and reactions to the material which will help the writer improve and/or understand the scores. Use reverse of page for additional notes.

Some categories contain more than one set of criteria. Judges should determine a score based on the balance/average of all evaluated criteria in the category.

Point Scale: 1 to maximum number of points available in each category

					Points for Category

MEANING/CONTENT: the extent to which the writer exhibits sound understanding of storytelling and characters

					Points for Category
Story Structure	Establishes strong plot/setting/characters/ point of view	Establishes plot/ setting/characters/ point of view	Some elements of story structure, little blending of dialogue and narration	Few/no story structure elements present	/30
Character-ization	Develops complex characters through dialogue, narration and action	Develops characters through dialogue, narration and action	Some character development	Characters are not developed	

Notes: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

DEVELOPMENT: the extent to which writer's ideas are elaborated and developed using story devices

					Points for Category
Ideas	Develops ideas clearly and fully; uses a wide range of relevant details	Develops ideas clearly; uses relevant details	Develops ideas briefly; uses some details	Uses incomplete/ underdeveloped details	/15

Notes: _____

_____

_____

_____

ORGANIZATION: the extent to which the writer develops the story in an understandable manner

					Points for Category
Organization	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical, coherent structure through appropriate transitions	Maintains a clear focus; exhibits a logical sequence of ideas through appropriate transitions	Establishes but does not always maintain an appropriate focus; some inconsistencies in sequence of ideas	Lacks an appropriate focus, but suggests some organization	/10

NOTES: _____

_____

_____

LANGUAGE USE: the extent to which the writer demonstrates an awareness of audience purpose

Description	Creative, concrete language; uses literary devices and rich sensory detail	Writer uses concrete language, literary devices and sensory detail	Some use of concrete language, literary devices, and sensory detail	Use of concrete language, literary devices or sensory detail	/15
Word Choice	Uses sophisticated precise vocabulary	Effective word choice	Some effective word choices	Few effective word choices	
Sentence Variety	Well-varied sentence structure throughout	Good sentence structure and variety	Occasional use of sentence variety	Little sentence variety	
Voice/Sense Of Audience	Unique voice; strong sense of audience	Evident awareness of voice and audience	Some awareness of voice and audience	Mechanical/ unsuitable voice, unaware of audience	

NOTES: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CONVENTIONS: the extent to which the writer uses and understands writing/English basics

Grammar Punctuation	Smooth, fluid error-free punctuation and grammar	Mostly correct grammar, errors do not interfere with communication	Errors occasionally interfere with story verb form errors	Grammatical errors are awkward interfere with story	/10
Spelling Word Use	Correct spelling; error-free word use	Mostly correct spelling and word use	Errors in spelling and word use	Misspelled and mis-used word throughout	

NOTES: _____

_____

_____

_____

CREATIVITY: Why did I like this story

Creativity	Subject and pre-sentation make this an exceptional piece of writing	Presentation is out of the ordinary and written in a way to enhance uniqueness	Idea and presentation show special thought for story but could be better presented	Story had some unique elements but writer did not use much effort to create story "magic"	/20
The "Wow" Factor	Discretionary points can be awarded to writer for an outstanding piece of writing without having to conform to any particular criteria. Points may not exceed total points for this category.				

NOTES: _____

_____

_____

_____

TOTAL POINTS

/100