

**League of Women Voters of Sussex Highlands
Essay Competition Rubric – 2025**

Criteria	Qualities required for scoring		
	3	2	1

How effectively does the writing focus on a topic and anticipate the audience's background knowledge of the topic?

Purpose and Audience	3	2	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masterfully addresses the audience and purpose • Compelling topic informs readers • Skillful introduction that sets up the essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is appropriate for audience and purpose • Interesting topic informs readers • Adequate introduction that sets up the essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is ineffective for audience and purpose • Vague topic somewhat informs readers • Weak introduction that does not set up essay

How skillfully does the writing generate thoughtful ideas and support the topic?

Support and Synthesis	3	2	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skillful and logical idea progression • Skillful link to topic in each body paragraph • Skillful synthesis of information • Three of more excellent reasons are stated with good support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate idea progression • Clear link to topic in most body paragraphs • Adequate synthesis of information • Three of more reasons are stated but some arguments are weak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate idea progression • Paragraphs are not linked to topic • Inadequate synthesis of information • Reasons are stated but with weak arguments

How easy is the writing to follow?

Organization, Fluency and Style	3	2	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful transitions clarify the relationship between ideas • Skillfully fluent sentences enhance ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate transitions suggest the relationship between ideas • Mostly fluent sentences convey ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ineffective transition shows the relationship between some ideas • An accumulation of run on, choppy or incomplete sentences impedes clarity of ideas

How clear is the meaning of the writing?

Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation	3	2	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally free of most errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulation of errors

How effective and accurate is the word choice?

Vocabulary	3	2	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skillful and accurate vocabulary and tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate vocabulary and tone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak vocabulary and tone

How accurate is the style and formatting of the writing, and does the writer show academic integrity?

Resources and Presentation	3	2	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mastery of academic integrity • Accurately credits work of others with complete citations • Appropriate style and formatting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to master academic integrity • Mostly credits work of others with accurate citations • Mostly appropriate style and formatting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent mastery of academic integrity • Inconsistent credit for work of others with few citations • Inconsistent style and formatting