

## CATE WRITING CONTEST SCORING GUIDELINES (Version 1.0)

### POETRY

- **Impact:** The poem evokes something in the reader.
- **Word Choice:** The poem uses language effectively, creatively, and/or surprisingly given its topic and style.
- **Structure:** The poem seems thoughtfully designed. Line breaks and other structural features seem intentional.
- **Editing:** The poem seems polished, with thoughtful attention to, rather than random occurrence of, repeated words, punctuation, unconventional spelling, etc.

### NARRATIVE

- **Focus:** The story or memoir seems focused on an idea, theme, or emotion.
- **Organization:** The story uses a timeline structure, which may include flashbacks, and provides clues to reader about time, setting, point of view, and changes to these.
- **Development:** The story includes sensory details, vivid description, internal and external dialogue, and/or figures of speech in order to show important scenes.
- **Editing:** Errors may appear but are not frequent or serious enough to distract from or confuse meaning. More advanced writers will use conventions including italics for thoughts, quotes for dialogue, etc.

### INFORMATIVE/ARGUMENTATIVE

- **Focus:** Essay has a clear main idea or claim, typically stated as a thesis. This main idea unifies and guides the support in the body paragraphs.
- **Organization:** The essay has a clear opening, middle, and concluding section. The ideas are broken up into manageable and focused paragraphs, typically with topic sentences. Paragraphs avoid repetition.
- **Development:** Ideas or claims are supported with adequate and proportionate evidence, examples, and/or reasoning. Arguments avoid overgeneralizations and unsupported claims. Information has a clear point or purpose. More advanced writers will include transitions to signal the relationship between the ideas.
- **Editing:** Errors may appear but are not frequent or serious enough to distract from or confuse meaning. More advanced writers will edit rhetorically, for example to show the relationship between or emphasize ideas.
- **Research:** Direct quotes are in quotation marks and are cited with a signal phrase or parenthetical. Paraphrased intellectual property (statistics, ideas based on expertise, etc.) is cited. Sources cited in the essay are listed on a Works Cited page. More advanced writers will use consistent format and a variety of research integration techniques.

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