

Georgia Independent Christian Arts & Academics

Personal Essay Score Sheet

Name _____ Date _____ Judge _____
Subject _____ Time _____ Score _____

_____ I. **TOTAL EFFECT (up to 30 points)**

- A. Is the writing fresh and memorable?
- B. Does the writing show rather than tell?
- C. Does the language of the writing effectively convey the content?
- D. Does the writing affect (move, interest, amuse, concern, examples) the reader?

_____ II. **SPECIFICS (TOTAL OF A-G)**

_____ A. **Originality (up to 10 points)**

1. Does the writing surprise the reader with:
 - a. Freshness of language or ideas?
 - b. Originality of form or content?
 - c. Honesty of self-expression?
 - d. Vividness of detail and language?
 - e. Pleasing patterns of language or metaphor?
 - f. Other forms of originality?

_____ B. **FORM (up to 10 points)**

1. Does the form of the writing complement its content?
2. Does the writing build in effective ways?
3. Is the writing complete?

_____ C. **VIVIDNESS (up to 10 points)**

1. Does the writing make the reader feel and see the subject with:
 - a. Specific, expressive details?
 - b. Vivid images?
 - c. Concrete language?
 - d. Effective dialogue, if appropriate?

_____ D. **LANGUAGE (up to 10 points)**

1. Does the language of the writing create effective patterns of:
 - a. Rhythm?
 - b. Effective repetition (parallel constructions, repetition for emphasis and others?)
 - c. Metaphor and simile?
2. Does the writer use strong, vivid verbs and adjectives?
3. Does the writer use language economically?

_____ E. **VOICE (up to 10 points)**

1. Does the writer speak in a consistently authentic voice?
2. Where other voices appear, are they authentic?
3. Does the writer speak honestly?

_____ F. **AUDIENCE (up to 10 points)**

1. Does the writing keep an audience in mind by:
 - a. Taking on an appropriate and discernible form?
 - b. Adopting a consistent tone?
 - c. Supplying recognizable clues to meaning?
2. Does the writing involve, rather than dictate to, the reader?
3. Does the writing create an appropriate effect on the reader?

_____ G. **MECHANICS AND USAGE (up to 10 points)**

Keeping in mind that the contestant writes without benefit of a dictionary or time for Revision, do you find that he/she has good command of grammar, punctuation and Spelling?

_____ **Total Effect** + _____ **Specifics** = _____ **TOTAL** _____ **Rank 1-8 (For Tie)**

Judges Comments: