



Missouri Scholars Academy Rubric for Rating Student Essays

Each nominee must submit 2 essays for review. The maximum points a student can earn for each essay is 15. The maximum points of combined essays is 30 points.

	6	5	3	2	1/0
Purpose <i>Do they have something to say?</i> 6 points possible	Writing is focused and contains significant detail. Organization enhances the reader's understanding.	Writing is clear and contains sufficient detail. Organization guides the reader's understanding.	Writing is generally clear but could use more detail. Organization is adequate.	Writing is inconsistent and the reader must make inferences. Organization leaves the reader struggling for direction.	Writing lacks focus and contains little information. Organization lacks direction.
Voice <i>Is this an essay that only they could write?</i> 6 points possible	The writer's voice makes a strong impression on the text. Word choice is vivid and precise.	The writer's voice can be identified throughout the text. Word choice is effective.	The writer's voice is emerging. Word choice lacks interest.	The writer's voice is distanced from the text. Word choice is limited.	The writer's voice is non-existent (lifeless). Word choice is incorrect or vague.
Conventions <i>Is the writer in control of their essay?</i> 3 points possible			Sentences are varied and flow smoothly. The text is carefully proofread. Convention errors are minor.	Sentences are grammatically correct but lack rhythm.	There are significant issues with sentence structure (e.g. choppy, run-on, no variety, etc.) Convention errors make the text difficult to interpret.
			Essay 1: /15	Essay 2: /15	Total: /30