

VOD Judges' Guidelines

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Category	1-10 pts	11-20 pts	21-25 pts	26-30 pts	30-35 pts
Originality (35 pts possible)	Unoriginal. Re-phrases others' ideas or uses cliches without any creative applications.	A few original, creative thoughts but on the whole fails to be engaging.	Mostly original, creative thoughts that are generally engaging.	Content is original and creative that engage the reader throughout the essay.	Excellent developed with many aspects and ideas of the theme being addressed. Original content, original examples that are memorable and impactful. Captivates the audience and leaves a lasting and profound impression.
Content (30 pts possible)	Content is unrelated to the theme of the contest. Structure is disorganized and hard to follow.	Partially related to the theme of the contest. Structure lacks organization, focus, and clear argumentation.	Mostly related to the theme of the contest. There is some structure, but there are gaps in organization, focus, and argumentation.	The content is clearly in line with the contest theme. Good structure and organization is evident. The paper is mostly focused and most arguments are well-supported.	
Delivery (35 pts possible)	The speaker cannot be understood. Articulation is poor with poor pronunciation.	The speaker is difficult to understand. The speaker is monotone through much of the speech. The speaker is unengaging and pacing is poor.	The speaker can be understood most of the time, but vocal tone and pacing are inconsistent, and speaker's ability to engage the listener is uneven.	Clear speaking voice with generally good tone and pacing that complement the content of the speech and generally engage the listener.	Superior speaking voice with excellent tone and well-paced delivery that enlivens the content of the speech and consistently engages the listener.