

## DTSC National Essay Competition 2015

### Judging Criteria

Content & Argument Criteria	Scoring Range			
	7-8	4-6	2-3	1
The essay addresses the competition theme.	The essay is focused, purposeful, and reflects original insight and ideas.	The essay is focused on the topic and includes relevant ideas.	The essay is focused on the topic and includes few loosely related	The essay poorly addresses the topic and includes irrelevant ideas.
The essay demonstrates evidence based argument.	Persuasively supports the main point with well-developed reasons, references and/or examples.	Supports the main point with developed reasons, references and less concrete examples.	Supports the main point with some underdeveloped reasons, references or examples.	Provides little or no support for the main point.
The essay demonstrates logical argument and reaches a clear conclusion.	Effectively organizes ideas to build a logical, coherent argument culminating in a clear conclusion.	Organizes ideas to build an argument and come to a conclusion.	Some organization of ideas to build an argument.	Little or no organization of ideas to build an argument, or contains fallacies in the argument.
Language & Grammar Criteria	Scoring Range			
	5-6	3-4	2	1
Language	Effective and creative use of language to enhance meaning.	Good use of language and some creative elements.	Appropriate use of language but little creativity.	Basic use of Language.
Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation	Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation throughout with very few errors.	Uses correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation with few errors.	Contains frequent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.	Many errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, makes reader's comprehension difficult.