

FOR LEGIONNAIRES ON JUDGING THE ESSAY CONTESTANTS:

It is recommended to have **no less than three (3) judges**

The **Essay Chairperson** ensures that essays meet minimum requirements before including them in judging packets. The essays are between **500 & 1000 words**. To ensure fairness, separate copies of each qualified essay are given to the judges with all **identification information** removed. (Cover Sheets are removed, and essays get ID codes on each page (#1, 2, 3 or A, B, C., etc.).

JUDGES are encouraged to mark up and make notes on their copies as they wish. **They must then rank each essay in numerical order**, starting with number 1 in first place, and so on. The ranked essays are then returned to the chairperson for tallying. Judges are not identified to the students and they should not know of any of the competitors.

WHAT JUDGES SHOULD LOOK FOR

PROPER ENGLISH STRUCTURE: Is the essay well designed and planned? Are the spelling and grammar correct? Does it have clear sentences and paragraphs? Does it lead us from a beginning subject and opinion, through supporting paragraphs, and finish with a strong conclusion?

ACCURACY: Is the writer believable? Does the essay make sense? *Did it stay on topic*, making clear points or did it meander around and confuse? Are there any gaps or contradictions? Does it contain misconceptions or unsupported assertions? Different points of view or approaches to a subject are welcomed but they must be supported by reasonable arguments and facts. (A good bibliography substantiates those facts.)

EXTENT OF INFORMATION: Does the essay contain enough information and facts to effectively tell us about the subject and support opinions? An essay should tell us something of value, not just meander around making repetitive general statements to get up to the minimum word count. Did the writer research the subject via multiple reliable sources or did they appear to get all their information from only one place?

ORIGINALITY: Does the writer tell us something new? Do they present information in a new way or from a different perspective? Do we believe it is the writer's own words? Does it look like sections of text were copied from someone else? Does the writing style change from one section to another? Do they make assertions or cite facts that are unsupported or clearly inaccurate? (May be an accident but shows poor attention to detail.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Any material that is not original must be cited in a bibliography for the information of the judges, stating publication, volume, page, date, publisher and author. Anything cited from the internet must include a verifiable internet address such as: <http://pa-legion.com/about/our-history/>.