

### JCSB Essay Competition Evaluation Rubric

	<b>Thought</b>	<b>Voice</b> (style, sophistication, appropriateness)	<b>Organization</b> (unity, progression, consistency, overall and in paragraphs)	<b>Development</b> (focus, sufficiency, substantiality, appropriateness of support)	<b>Form</b> (syntax, punctuation, grammar, mechanics)
<b>1 pt</b>	Unacceptable: Superficial and shallow. No real sense of the issues.	Unacceptable: Distracting or inappropriate. Faulty or inadequate vocabulary, simplistic and monotonous sentence patterns, pretentious or inappropriate tone. Awkward shifts in level of language.	Unacceptable: Too loose, no apparent single, controlling main idea or an inarguable main idea; no sense of beginning, middle, end; paragraph divisions show little or no logic; nonexistent or inappropriate transitions; no controlling paragraph topics.	Unacceptable: Feeble or diffuse. Mostly vague, unsupported generalizations, clichés, or stereotypes, repetitious assertions. Narrowly partisan. Does not address the issues.	Unacceptable: Confusing or grossly careless. Consistent interference (real and potential) with meaning, or seriously distracting accumulation of minor errors.
<b>2-4 pts</b>	Adequate: But some problems. Reasonable but somehow shallow, shortsighted or plodding.	Adequate: But some problems. Somewhat limited word choice, sentence patterns safe but nothing more, voice inconsistent or bland.	Adequate: Some weakness in thesis or some straying from it. A sense of beginning, middle, and end, though one of the three may be insufficiently developed; some attempt at transitions; some paragraphs may not have clear topics.	Adequate: But some problems. Adequate support of main idea, though to which some middle paragraphs may not clearly relate; some use of reliable data/opinions, though there may be occasional (but not frequent) logic flaws, such as irrelevance, unsupported opinion, clichés, fallacies, etc.	Adequate: But some problems. Isolated interference with peripheral meaning, or somewhat distracting accumulation of minor errors.
<b>5 pts</b>	Very strong: Intelligent and probing. Perhaps even original and stimulating.	Very strong: Polished. Rich but suitable word choice, artful and even daring sentence patterns, an authentic voice.	Very Strong; Tight. Main idea quite clear—holds entire essay together well; intro and conclusion fully developed; paragraphs develop progressively with smooth transitions; paragraphs internally well organized.	Very Strong: Substantive and pointed. Evidence fully supports argument with reason, substance, even imagination. Variety of evidence and sense of context (for issue being addressed).	Very Strong: Clean. Only rare and minor technical errors.