

NHA Scholarship Rubric



Category	4	3	2	1
IDEAS AND CONTENT	<p>Writing is clear, focused, and holds the reader's interest. The main ideas stand out and are developed with strong supporting details. Ideas show originality. Explanations show in-depth thinking and analysis.</p> <p>Topic 1: Description of community service is clear. There is a definite connection between service and helping others as a part of moral character. The importance of helping others is emphasized and personal to the writer.</p>	<p>Main ideas are clear and easily understood by the reader. Supporting details are present, but some are too general or not relevant. The topic is explained, but details may not always connect with ideas.</p> <p>Topic 1: Description of community service is present, but may lack clear connection to moral character and helping others.</p>	<p>The reader can understand the main ideas, but they are too broad or simplistic. Supporting details are limited, off-topic, or overly general. Few examples or explanations to illustrate points.</p> <p>Topic 1: The description of the community service lacks details. The connection between helping others and moral character is unclear.</p>	<p>Main ideas are unclear and development is limited. Details may be insufficient, irrelevant, or repetitive. The reader must infer meaning.</p> <p>Topic 1: There is either no description of a community service project or the connection between the project and moral character is missing.</p>
ORGANIZATION	<p>Organization enhances the main idea(s) and its development. The structure is sequenced to move the reader through the text easily. There is a strong, inviting beginning and a clear sense of closure. Transitions between elements are smooth and effective.</p>	<p>Organization is clear, but the structure is predictable. Introduction is present but not designed to draw the reader in. The ending is a simple summary without an overall conclusion. Transitions between paragraphs and ideas assist reader through the text.</p>	<p>The overall structure is unclear or inconsistent. There is a beginning and ending, but they are underdeveloped or too obvious ("My topic is"). Placement of details not always effective. Transitional devices are limited.</p>	<p>There is no clear beginning or ending. Order seems random, with no clear direction. There are no clear transitions between ideas, sentences, etc. Reader is confused.</p>
VOICE	<p>Writer uses a voice that is sincere, personal and compelling. There's a strong sense of commitment to the topic through expressive and engaging language that speaks to the audience.</p>	<p>Writer uses a voice that is appropriate to the topic. There is a sense of the personality of the writer and their attitudes. The reader feels the writer's commitment and sincerity.</p>	<p>Writer's voice is inconsistent, sometimes too personal, and sometimes very impersonal. The writer's awareness of audience is unclear.</p>	<p>The writer uses a voice that shows no awareness of audience and no personal connection to the topic. Writing is flat and lifeless.</p>
WORD CHOICE	<p>Words convey the intended message in an interesting, precise and natural way. There is a broad and varied range of words that have been carefully chosen and placed for impact. Vivid language and original phrases catch the reader's eye.</p>	<p>Words convey the message in an interesting and effective way. Writer uses a variety of words and phrases that are appropriate for the topic and audience. Some evidence of language chosen to engage the audience or have impact.</p>	<p>Language is ordinary, lacking precision and variety. Most words are accurate but there are some misused words or expressions. Over usage of clichés, overused expressions, or jargon.</p>	<p>Writing shows a limited vocabulary or has many misused words. Imprecise and incorrect word use distracts reader and hampers understanding.</p>
SENTENCE FLUENCY	<p>Writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted with varied structures that make reading aloud expressive and enjoyable.</p>	<p>The flow of writing is smooth and easy to read. Sentence structures are varied to enhance interest.</p>	<p>The flow of writing is more mechanical than fluid. Some sentence variety in structure, length, and beginnings; repetitive patterns are frequent.</p>	<p>The writing is difficult to follow and read. Sentences are choppy, awkward, incomplete and unvaried.</p>
CONVENTIONS	<p>Writing shows strong control of writing conventions (e.g. punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Errors are so few that the reader can skim right over them without noticing them.</p>	<p>Writing shows control of writing conventions. Minor errors are noticeable, but do not affect readability.</p>	<p>Writing shows limited control of conventions. Frequent errors distract the reader.</p>	<p>Writing has numerous errors that distract the reader and makes it difficult to understand.</p>