

NHA Scholarship Rubric



Category	4	3	2	1
IDEAS AND CONTENT	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. Topic 2: Description of situation and how the writer applied the moral focus lessons is clear. Writer describes the process used to apply the lessons in to an important decision that he/she made.	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. Topic 2: Description of a situation and making a decision is present, but may lack clear connection to moral focus lessons and their application.	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. Topic 2: The description of the decision making process lacks details. The connection to moral focus is unclear.	Main ideas are unclear and development is limited. Details may be insufficient, irrelevant, or repetitive. The reader must infer meaning. Topic 2: There is either no description of the decision-making process or the connection moral character is missing.
ORGANIZATION	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.	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.	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.	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.
VOICE	Writer uses a voice that is personal, sincere and compelling. There's a strong sense of commitment to the topic through expressive and engaging language that speaks to the audience.	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.	Writer's voice is inconsistent, sometimes too personal, and sometimes very impersonal. The writer's awareness of audience is unclear.	The writer uses a voice that shows no awareness of audience and no personal connection to the topic. Writing is flat and lifeless.
WORD CHOICE	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.	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.	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.	Writing shows a limited vocabulary or has many misused words. Imprecise and incorrect word use distracts reader and hampers understanding.
SENTENCE FLUENCY	Writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted with varied structures that make reading aloud expressive and enjoyable.	The flow of writing is smooth and easy to read. Sentence structures are varied to enhance interest.	The flow of writing is more mechanical than fluid. Some sentence variety in structure, length, and beginnings; repetitive patterns are frequent.	The writing is difficult to follow and read. Sentences are choppy, awkward, incomplete and unvaried.
CONVENTIONS	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.	Writing shows control of writing conventions. Minor errors are noticeable, but do not affect readability.	Writing shows limited control of conventions. Frequent errors distract the reader.	Writing has numerous errors that distract the reader and make it difficult to understand.

Adapted from Oregon Dept. of Education and Six Traits +1