

Holistic Scoring

When using holistic scoring for a book, the judge:

1. Makes a single, overall judgment of the quality of the writing sample.
2. Reads the book usually only once.
3. Ranks the book based on the overall impact made by the writing, taking into account all the factors of good writing, not including handwriting.

Factors that Define Good Writing

Organization—beginning, middle, and end

Imagination and creativity

Word choice

Sentence Structure

Grammar

Spelling

Overall neatness

Scoring Weight

Books will be evaluated by at least two readers. Each judge reads the books alone, and then compares each score with the other reader's score. A one point difference between readers is permitted. If there is a larger variance, another reader should also score the book.

Differences of opinion with the subject matter in a book and whether the judge likes or dislikes the subject written about should not affect the score of a book, as long as it is creative and well written.

Handwritten vs. typed should NOT affect the judge's decision.

Judges may or may not leave notes to the students in their books on Post-It notes. Students do appreciate any feedback, though.

The judge shall not look at the entry form information to sway their decision. Judges should abstain from voting in the final judging if familiar with any of the books that are competing at any one grade level.

Additional Thoughts for Judges

Read each book, looking at the **quality of writing**.

Score the books you feel are the highest quality. The Rubric and Holistic Scoring sheets may be used as a guide.

Make notes, so that you are able to support your choice.

Discuss the books with the other readers to determine the winners.

Choose the winners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. You may give honorable mention to a book that did not receive a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place. Ties can be given for any of the places.

If time, please put a post-it note in the back of each book that includes a positive or helpful comment. This will encourage these young students to continue writing.