

Lansing Juneteenth Essay Competition
Student Scoring Criteria Checklist for
CATEGORY II – 7th & 8th Grade

Format/Layout 0-5 points

Is your essay

- no less than 400 words long and no more than 500?
- in 12- or 14-point Times New Roman or Arial font?
- double spaced?

Introduction 0-10 points

- Does your essay have a title?
- Is your introduction effective and well developed?
- Did you present your main idea (your thesis) clearly?
- Do you introduce the subject and provide basic information about how you structured the essay in a clear and logical order?
- Did you stay on the topic?

Body of the Essay 0-10 pts

- Did the body of your essay follow the clear and logical order of the points you presented in your introduction?
- Did your resources and facts support the details for each point or idea?
- Was your essay well developed?
- Did your essay stay on topic?
- Were the details and ideas you used to support your topic specific?
- Did the details and ideas you used show your original thinking?

Conclusion 0-5 points

- Is your conclusion brief and to the point?
- Did you restate your thesis and summarize your main ideas?
- Did you bring your thoughts and ideas to an effective conclusion?

Grammar and Spelling 0-5 points

Is your

- grammar correct?
- spelling correct?
- punctuation correct?

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Proofreading is one of the keys to writing success.

- Did you read your essay out loud to yourself slowly?

It's important to ask two people you trust to read your essay. They are not allowed to make corrections, but they can tell you where your writing isn't clear.

- Did someone else proofread your essay? (For example, a family member, teacher, or mentor)