

Patriot's Pen Judges' Guidelines

Category	1-10 pts	11-20 pts	21-30 pts	31-35 pts
Theme Knowledge (30 pts possible)	Student does not demonstrate understanding of the theme. The theme is not clearly stated or the content is not evident of the theme.	Student demonstrates some understanding of the theme. The theme is stated and some of the content is evident of the theme.	Student demonstrates a high level of understanding of the theme. The theme is clearly stated and content consistently demonstrates evidence of understanding.	
Theme Development (35 pts possible)	The theme of the essay shows little to no development throughout the essay. The student may have alluded to the theme but the essay lacks consistency in ideas.	The theme shows some development with a few aspects of the theme being addressed. Student leaves reader with some unanswered questions.	The theme shows good development with several aspects of the theme being addressed. Student conveys the theme with clarity.	The theme is excellently developed with many aspects and ideas of the theme being addressed. Student conveys theme with clarity and purpose.
Clarity of Ideas (35 pts possible)	The student struggles to convey their ideas to the reader. The ideas are not cohesive or organized. The essay is confusing and hard-to-follow.	The student conveys some of their ideas to their reader. Some of the ideas are organized and cohesive, but parts of the essay were confusing or may have not connected to the rest of the essay.	The student conveys many ideas to their reader. Most ideas are organized and cohesive. The essay flows well and is easy to follow.	The student conveys all ideas to their reader in an organized and cohesive manner. The essay has excellent structure and flows exceptionally well and holds the attention of the reader throughout.