

Lansing Juneteenth Essay Competition
Student Scoring Criteria Checklist for
CATEGORY IV – 11th & 12th Grade

Format/Layout 0-5 points

Is your essay

- no less than 600 words long and no more than 800?
- 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?
- Do 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?
- Do you stay on the topic?

Body of the Essay 0-10 pts

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

Conclusion 0-5 points

- Is your conclusion brief and to the point?
- Do you restate your thesis and summarize your main ideas?
- Do 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)