

Americanism Essay Contest Rubric

	4	3	2	1	Score
Topic Sentence & Essay Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the essay answer the question and give reasons in a topic sentence? • Topic sentence is focused on the question and consistently maintained throughout the essay. • Essay is organized with an effective introduction, body paragraph(s), and conclusion. • A variety of transitional words & phrases are used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the essay answer the question and give reasons in topic sentence? • Topic sentence is focused on the question and generally maintained throughout the essay. • Essay is organized with an introduction, body paragraph(s), and conclusion. • Transition words are used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the essay answer the question? • Topic Sentence is present but unclear • Transitions are not really used. • Introduction and conclusion may be present but one sentence or not worded well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay question is not answered. • Topic Sentence is not present • Transitions may be absent or confusing. • Only one paragraph • AI generated 	
Content & Original Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective evidence and original thought that may include original student writing combined with (but may not be limited to) paraphrasing, text evidence, examples, definitions, narrative, and/or rhetorical techniques as appropriate to support the topic sentence. • Any evidence used is appropriately cited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate evidence and original thought that may include (but may not be limited to) a combination of original student writing with paraphrasing, text evidence, examples, definitions, narrative, and/or rhetorical** techniques as appropriate to support the thesis. • Any evidence used is appropriately cited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence and thought may attempt to support the topic sentence but mostly source information and not original thought, repetitive or otherwise ineffective. Disconnected ideas. • Lacks appropriate citations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response shows lack of understanding of the question • Evidence from sources may be absent, vague, and/or confusing. • AI generated. 	

4		3	2	1	Score
Grammar Score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong vocabulary words used • Varied types of sentences used. • Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are above average. • Tone and/or voice strengthens the overall response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade level vocabulary words used • Grade appropriate sentence types used • Grade level use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling • Tone and/or voice is appropriate for the overall response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary and word choice may be basic or below grade level. • Simple sentences • Inconsistent use of correct grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling with distracting errors.. • Tone and/or voice may be inconsistent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary and word choice is unclear or confusing • Sentence structure may be confusing. • Use of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling may contain a variety of severe errors. • Tone and/or voice may be inappropriate. • AI generated 	

Topic Sentence & Essay Structure	_____
Score Content & Original Thought	_____
Grammar Score	_____
TOTAL SCORE	_____

Reviewers Comments: