

Writing Rubric/Evaluation
College Division Student Essay Contest

Criteria	Absent (0)	Poor (1)	Good (2)	Excellent (3)
Thesis, Ideas, and Analysis	There is no main idea or focus, and/or the article is not applicable to TMEA members.	The main idea is unclear and/or the topic is of interest to some TMEA members.	The main idea is original, but not compelling. The topic is of general interest to most TMEA members.	The main idea(s) is original and contains compelling ideas that are of interest to TMEA members.
Organization	There is little or no organization.	There is some organization, but the paper lacks clear: introduction and/or conclusion; and/or transitions; and/or paragraphs.	Paper is organized, but better introduction or conclusion; and/or transitions; and/or more clearly written paragraphs are needed.	The paper is well organized. Each paragraph is focused and in the proper order. Introduction and conclusion are complementary, and there are excellent transitions.
Mechanics of Writing; Language and Vocabulary Maturity	Frequent punctuation errors, misspellings, typos, language misuse, or grammatical errors make the meaning unclear. Language and vocabulary are subpar for the university level.	Punctuation errors, misspellings, typos, language misuse, or grammatical errors slightly interfere with the meaning of the paper. University-level language and vocabulary are rarely used.	Writing is clear, but there are minor punctuation errors, misspellings, typos, or grammatical errors. University-level language and vocabulary are frequently used.	Creative word choice, clarity, punctuation, grammar, spelling, and sentence structure enhance the meaning and focus of the paper. University-level language and vocabulary are used consistently.
Evidence	There is no detailed evidence to support the main idea. If applicable: Article is presented without citations. No discernible documentation style (APA, Chicago, MLA, etc.) is used.	There is some evidence, but in key places evidence is vague or missing. If applicable: There are some citations, but they are either incomplete or irrelevant. Use of a documentation style is inconsistent.	There is supporting evidence for most of the claims, but some evidence may be unrelated or vague in some areas. If applicable: Citations are used to validate most of the claims. There are some errors in use of documentation style.	There is a variety of support for every claim, and it is strong, concrete, and appropriate. If applicable: All evidence is well cited, and documentation style is used consistently.

Total Possible Score: 12