

07 Commentary Writing

STRENGTHS

Judge 1:

- Nice use of powerful, clear kicker sentences to tie up each paragraph.
- Clear argument, well organized
- Good kicker at the end of the piece.

Judge 2: Very good use of examples to support assertions.

Ranking/Scores: This story earned an Honorable Mention. See scores in parenthesis before each individual category.

SUGGESTIONS

Judge 1:

- This reads more like an essay than an opinion column--it has that dispassionate, academic tone. Try for a more personal tone. Think about convincing your audience of high school readers. Use first person.
- Paragraphs are rather long (again, more like an essay than a column).

Judge 2:

Try to infuse your great logical points with your voice and your experiences.

Critique of Entry

The Critique Sheet is not HOW the entry is judged but is used for feedback to the contestant. Sometimes it is a special spark or creative element that will push one entry to the forefront over another in order to receive an award. High marks do not necessarily mean an award will be given.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (4) Background information used accurately and purposefully; writer does not ignore or distort the facts | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| (4) Writer's opinion clear | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| (2) Effective voice is employed (serious, passionate, caustic, funny) | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| (1.5) Commentary employs engaging style to address high school audience | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| (2) Commentary makes reader think about subject in new light | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| (2) First person used effectively | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| (3) Follows conventions | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follows AP style <input type="checkbox"/> Contains few convention errors <input type="checkbox"/> Adheres to accepted legal/ethical journalistic practices | | | | | |

4 = excellent
3 = good
2 = average
1 = poor
0 = element is missing or does not meet the criteria for judging

Judge _____

Judge _____