

## 07 Commentary Writing

### 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.

(2) Background information used accurately and purposefully; writer does not ignore or distort the facts	4	3	2	1	0
(2.5) 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
(1.5) Commentary makes reader think about subject in new light	4	3	2	1	0
(1.5) First person used effectively	4	3	2	1	0
(2.5) Follows conventions	4	3	2	1	0

- Follows AP style
- Contains few convention errors
- 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

### STRENGTHS

**Judge 1:** Your opinion was clear early in the column.

**Judge 2:** Straightforward writing.

**Ranking/Scores:** This story did not earn an award. See scores in parenthesis before each individual category.

### SUGGESTIONS

**Judge 1:** Be more precise with sources.

**Judge 2:** You wrote an essay, not commentary. "Poor Grandpa..." Your rationale didn't seem to be heartfelt.

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Judge \_\_\_\_\_