

Masonic Essay Contest Rubric 2025

Requirements	☐ Writer is a high school senior from public high school ☐ Essay is no more than 1,250 words, excluding Work Cited page ☐ Essay uses MLA Style including Works Cited Page			☐ Essay is student's original work (see below) ☐ Essay is in English ☐ AI Attestation Form Included	
Originality	4	3	2	1	0
<i>View the originality report for each essay—check that high</i>	Essay uses supporting evidence that is accurately cited throughout (25% non-original max).	Essay uses accurately cited supporting evidence but quoted material may overwhelm writer's own points (26%-40%).	Essay is overwhelmed by evidence/ examples that are not original to the author—it is accurately cited (41-60%).	Majority of essay is from outside sources, not consistently cited, writer provided little of their own thinking. (60%-75%).	Essay shows signs of being almost entirely from outside sources and/or AI (76%-100%)

Thesis/ Main Ideas	4	3	2	1
<i>Evaluate the way the writer establishes and develops their main point (thesis). The thesis should be identifiable throughout the essay.</i>	Establishes a clear, focused, and significant main idea, with original insights, that is fully developed throughout the essay.	Communicates a solid, focused, and accurate main idea with adequate development . May not be as insightful as those essays rated a 4.	The writer's main point may be vague or merely a restatement of the prompt . Main idea may be unclear or underdeveloped .	Essay lacks a clear main idea/thesis that controls the structure of the rest of the essay. Writer may make some individual points but they do not cohere into an essay.
Support	4	3	2	1
<i>How well does the writer support their main points—through personal or researched examples.</i>	Supports the main idea convincingly , with highly specific, credible information and/or striking details that go beyond the obvious . <i>Evidence accurately cited.</i>	Supports the main idea with generally accurate, specific, and relevant information and/or details. <i>There are parenthetical citations that are accurate but perhaps inconsistent.</i>	Provides incidental or inconsistent support of the main idea with information that lacks specificity, relevance, and/or accuracy . <i>Evidence is not cited but may mention sources.</i>	Attempts to support the main idea with some information and/ or details, but these are generic, unfocused, unclear, and/ or unrelated . <i>There are no citations.</i>
Organization Style	4	3	2	1
<i>How well does the writer organize and compose the essay including proofreading.</i>	Reflects smooth, cohesive organization and writing style that build to create a unified whole. Few to no grammatical/conventions errors.	Includes basic organization and style that moves the reader through the text logically with minimal confusion. Uses correct conventions with some minor errors .	Shows developing organization and writing style that hampers ability to follow text. Inconsistent use of correct conventions —impairing readability.	Uses mostly ineffective organization and/or writing style with only a few sections that direct reader. Essay is riddled with convention errors that make text very difficult to read.