

FAMILY HISTORY WRITING CONTEST

SCORING GUIDE

The following categories are used when judging the contest entries:

- **Content**
- **Detail**
- **Organization**
- **Source Material**

Points are awarded for the work submitted in each of the four categories with a total of 100 points possible:

- **Incomplete – 0 – 5 points**
- **On the Way – 5 – 10 points**
- **Excellent – 10 – 15 points**

CONTENT

0 – 5 points

- Essay is vague
- Main person not clearly described.

5 – 10 points

- Subjects are identified, and described but information is not complete, not connected to story
- Reader is left asking questions

10 – 15 points

- Clearly identifies subject to reader
- Relationship to author is made personal
- Character(s), places, times and events are brought to life for reader

DETAIL

0 – 5 points

- Lacks dates, places, full names, details

5-10 points

- Details exist, but are incomplete or vague

10-15 points

Describes appearance, personality of main characters

- Includes personal observations, feelings about characters (education, occupation, education, pastimes, etc.)
- Includes relevant dates and locations of birth, marriages, deaths
- Includes information regarding family traditions, religion
- Describes how these factors impacted life of the subject

ORGANIZATION

0 – 5 points

- Title Page missing
- Work is not neat
- Writing is disorganized
- Errors in grammar and spelling with no evidence of attempt to correct them

5 – 10 points

- Well organized presentation
- Good structure
- Title present and complete
- Essay includes some errors in grammar and spelling

10 – 15 points

- Very well organized presentation with clear beginning and ending
- Includes properly filled out Title Page
- Work is neatly handwritten, typed or word processed
- Includes **copies** of relevant photographs (they may not be returned)
- Uses correct grammar
- May include other items of interest to support story, including artwork (maps, drawings, etc.)

SOURCE MATERIAL

0 – 5 points

- No sources or supplementary information included

5 – 10 points

- Improperly filled out Family Group Sheets or Pedigree Chart (no deductions taken for unknown information – just write ‘unknown’ where you do not know.
- Sources obviously used but not cited

10 – 15 points

- Includes properly filled out family tree, or Pedigree Chart leading from main characters to author
- Includes properly filled out Family Group Sheet showing author as a child
- List living sources of information used in essay (can include interview, documents, oral and/or written family history), library sources.
- Identify source – Bible, census, military or other records, if used.
- Identify all photographs, if possible

Remember, points are given, not taken away. Be creative, be thorough, and have fun!

NOTE: It is recommended that you keep a copy of your completed entry in case it is lost. We make every effort to return the originals to each student.