

TRIBUTE TO THE RESCUERS ESSAY CONTEST – SCORING RUBRIC

Moral Courage – The ability to take a strong stance on a specific issue and to defend it based on one’s personal beliefs or convictions regardless of danger or threats to personal safety.

	1 --- 1+	2- --- 2 --- 2+	3- --- 3 --- 3+	4- --- 4
IDEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Writer doesn’t understand the meaning of moral courage ➤ Writer does not understand how to be proactive against inhumanity ➤ lacks supporting examples with severe digressions from purpose ➤ creates little if any understanding of the author’s opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ writer doesn’t fully understand or convey the meaning of moral courage ➤ writer understands but does not convey how an individual can be proactive against inhumanity ➤ contains loosely-related, supporting examples with notable digressions from the purpose ➤ creates a limited understanding of the author’s opinion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ writer understands but doesn’t fully convey the meaning of moral courage ➤ writer generally expresses how an individual can be proactive against inhumanity ➤ writing contains some relevant, supporting examples ➤ writing creates a general understanding of the author’s purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ writer understands and conveys the meaning of moral courage ➤ writer clearly expresses how an individual can be proactive against inhumanity ➤ writing is supported with details, research, and concrete examples ➤ writing is clear and understood
VOICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ uses tone inappropriate for purpose and audience ➤ is not enlivened, spontaneous, and individualistic ➤ writing fails to show commitment to the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ generally lacks tone appropriate for purpose and audience ➤ is seldom enlivened, spontaneous, and individualistic ➤ written from a student’s experience but fails to draw in the reader and make a personal connection to the event/figure discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ generally uses the appropriate tone for purpose and audience ➤ is occasionally enlivened, spontaneous, and individualistic ➤ written from a student’s experience ➤ writer attempts to make a personal connection to the event/figure discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ paper is sincere and uses an appropriate tone ➤ writing is enlivened, spontaneous, and from a fresh perspective ➤ written from a student’s experience ➤ writer makes a personal connection to the event/figure
ORGANIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ structural development is not identifiable ➤ transitions are seldom present ➤ sequencing is almost non-existent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ structural development is not readily apparent ➤ transitions are often repetitious or missing ➤ sequencing often lacks coherence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ there is a functional introduction and conclusion ➤ transitions may be ineffective, on occasion ➤ sequencing is somewhat logical, rational, and effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ clear sense of beginning and ending ➤ transitions clearly show how ideas connect ➤ solid sequencing helps essay flow smoothly
CONVENTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling distract the reader ➤ sentences almost never vary in length or structure, and phrasing is choppy and incomplete ➤ uses clichés and jargon rather than original language ➤ bibliographic citations are not employed ➤ doesn’t conform to specified length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ errors in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling appear frequently ➤ sentence structure seldom varies and phrasing often rambles or sounds forced ➤ language is often neither specific nor precise ➤ bibliographic citations are either incorrect or not employed ➤ doesn’t conform to specified length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ more than a few errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation ➤ sentence structure varies and generally sounds natural and conveys meaning ➤ word choice is consistent with purpose ➤ bibliographic citations are present and generally correct ➤ conforms to specified length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ grammar, spelling and punctuation are correct ➤ sentence structure helps the paper read smoothly ➤ word choice is consistent with purpose ➤ bibliographic citations are present and correct ➤ conforms to specified length