

Judges' Scorecard for Finalist Selection

Comprehension of issues _____ /5 pts.
Understanding of complex issues was demonstrated

Proper focus/scope and development of content _____ /5 pts.
The entire prompt was addressed
The proposed changes are feasible and can be realistically implemented

Originality of thought _____ /5 pts.
Ideas are creative, inventive and a reflection of the author's own thoughts

Clarity of expressed ideas _____ /5 pts.
The essay was well-organized with a strong, central purpose
Proper grammar, usage and mechanics were used
Major points were clearly expressed
Redundancy was absent/minimal
Uses proper tools (figures, tables) to convey ideas

Strength of argument _____ /5 pts.
Major positions were strongly supported by substantial and specific evidence

Utilization of resources _____ /5 pts.
Sources were reliable and reputable
Sources were diverse

Comments: