

International Society of Family History Writers and Editors Judges' Evaluation Sheet



ISFHWE Judges' Grading Guidelines

Judges are cautioned to guard against being influenced in any way by the size or status of the medium in which any entry might have been published, or by the author's name or reputation. Judge strictly upon the entry's merits as listed below. Note: Judges do not know the names of the other judges for this contest, and the names of the judges are not released until after this year's contest winners have been announced.

Here's how entries are judged

1. Clarity (1-15 points). No reader should ever have to read a sentence twice because of the way it's put together. SCORE _____
2. Lean writing (1-10 points) Deduct for unnecessary words, and repetition. Give points for strong active verbs and deduct for overuse of adjectives and adverbs. SCORE _____
3. Style, Sparkle and Presentation (1-30 points) Give points for uniqueness, drama, and creativeness in telling of the story or reporting the facts. SCORE _____
4. Accuracy (1-15 points) Pertains to facts in general, but watch out for genealogical and historical errors, and/or misleading information, and deduct for same. This includes typographical errors and transpositions, even though they may or may not be the author's fault (obviously you have no way of knowing who made the error when grading published material). SCORE _____
5. Language (1-20 points) Watch the grammar, spelling (but allow for variant spellings—do not deduct for non-American spelling), punctuation, and word usage. Deduct for clichés, qualifiers, platitudes and overused words, such as "very." Deduct for excessive and unnecessary punctuation, particularly the use of exclamation points. SCORE _____
6. Overall quality of the entry (1-10 points) Did the piece move you?__ Did you like it a lot?__ Does it stand out from the others?__ SCORE _____
7. TIEBREAKER. Judge's bonus (exactly 5 points). Use only to break a tie between entries. SCORE _____

TOTAL SCORE OF THIS ENTRY _____