

**2025 World Citizen Essay Contest Judging Rubric**

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| **Based on Grade-Level Expectations** |  | **4 - Excellent** |  | **3 - Proficient** |  | **2- Partial** |  | **1 - Minimal** |
| **Content:**  The author has chosen and explains a specific issue that is impacting and causing change in a specific context (local or global).  The essay provides a clear explanation of why the author chose this issue, context, and analyzes why it is important to address/solve, including its impact locally and/or globally.  The author utilizes evidence and a clear example(s) to explain their reasoning, including a course of action or specific action steps to address the issue.  The author has identified and explained their recommendations for addressing the issue, including how these action steps will have a positive impact on people’s lives. |      | Identifies an issue that is impacting and causing change in a specific society (context - local or global) to discuss, analyze, and explain.  Provides a clear explanation as to why this “changing societies” issue and context was selected, including examples and/or evidence from their research to support their explanation.  Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the “changing societies” issue and its impact on this specific context.  Provides a clear course of action and/or strategy to address the “changing societies” issue effectively; Uses strong evidence/examples to support their explanation.  Clearly and thoroughly identifies and explains a specific example(s) and/or steps to address the “changing societies” issue, including how this course of action would have a positive impact on people’s lives in this context.  . |        | Identifies an issue that is impacting and causing change in a specific society (context - local or global) to discuss, analyze, and explain.  Provides an explanation as to why this “changing societies” issue and context was selected, including examples and/or evidence from their research to support their explanation.  Demonstrates a basic understanding of the “changing societies” issue and its impact on this specific context.  Provides a course of action and/or strategy to address the “changing societies” issue effectively; Uses adequate evidence/examples to support their explanation.  Identifies and discusses a specific example(s) and/or steps to address the “changing societies” issue, including how this course of action would have positive and transformative impact on people’s lives in this context. |        | Identifies a specific issue that is impacting and causing change in a specific society (context - local or global) to discuss, analyze, and explain.  Provides an unclear explanation as to why this “changing societies” issue and context was selected, including examples and/or evidence from their research to support their explanation.  Demonstrates an incomplete understanding of this “changing societies” issue and its impact on this specific context.  Provides an incomplete course of action or strategy to address the “changing societies” issue with partial examples and/or evidence to support their explanation.  Partially identifies and discusses an example(s) and/or steps to address the “changing societies” issue and how it would have a positive impact on people’s lives in this context. |        | Does not identify a specific issue that is impacting and causing change in a context to discuss, analyze, and explain.  Does not provide an explanation as to why this “changing societies” issue and context was selected or provide analysis with evidence/examples.  Does not demonstrate a basic understanding of the of the “changing societies” issue and how it has impacted this specific context.  Does not provide a clear example and/or steps to address the issue and how it would have positive impact on people’s lives in this context. |
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| **Word Choice/Voice:**    The essay includes rich, colorful, and precise language that moves and enlightens the reader.    The essay presents the reader with the sense that the author cares deeply about the topics addressed. | * Conveys intended message in a precise, interesting, and natural way * Uses active voice * Suffused with vivid images, evocative word choice, and/or other devices that effectively inspire and intrigue the reader * Gives the reader the sense that the piece was written by a sincere person who cares deeply about the topic(s) addressed * Has a personal, original, and engaging tone * Consistently mindful of the reader, providing adequate background information where appropriate and anticipating potential questions posed by the reader | * Uses words that are adequate and correct in a general sense, occasionally showing refinement and precision * Uses passive voice * Includes at least one or two examples of vivid images, evocative word choice, or other devices that inspire and intrigue the reader * Gives the reader the sense that it was written by a sincere person who cares about the topic addressed * Has clear writing * Shows awareness of the audience and attempts to anticipate questions | * Uses words that lead to ambiguity or lack of precision * Uses inappropriate or overly technical jargon * Seems flat or dull, lacking devices that inspire and intrigue the reader * Seems as if it was written mechanically and that passion for the topic is lacking * Does not adequately demonstrate an awareness of the audience, and/or makes no attempt to anticipate the audience’s questions. | * Contains only simple word usage * Uses words that tend to be non-specific and/or   distracting   * Very vague or unclear and   fails to inspire and intrigue the reader   * Does not demonstrate   passion for the topic   * Completely lacks originality or personal flair * Gives reader no sense that there is a sincere person behind the piece of writing |
| **Organization/Conventions:**    The mechanical correctness of the piece shows great care and attention to detail. | * Well organized with an introduction, conclusion, and well-structured body paragraphs * Free of errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation | * Organized with an introduction, conclusion, and body paragraphs * Few errors in spelling, punctuation, syntax, and grammar | * Loosely organized or lacks clear introduction or conclusion * Contains multiple errors in spelling, punctuation, syntax, and grammar | * Lacks consistent organization * Contains many spelling, punctuation, syntax, and grammatical errors |
| **Works Cited** | **Satisfactory** | | **Unsatisfactory** | |
| The World Citizen Essay contest requires a works cited page as appropriate to grade level. This does not count toward the 1,000 word requirement. | * Provides citation information for any materials referenced * Clearly identifies others’ work and ideas * Grades 3-5 Category: Uses quotation marks as appropriate and mentions sources in the body of the essay * Grades 6-8 Category: Uses footnotes/endnotes, in-text citations, or a works cited page, with few or no errors * Grades 9-12 Category: Has a correctly formatted works cited page | | * Uses someone else’s work without giving credit * Mentions statistics or other supporting information without giving credit * Lacks adequate citations in a works cited or in footnotes/endnotes | |

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