

# NISOD Student Essay Contest Rubric

Criteria	5 - Excellent	4 - Good	3 - Satisfactory	2 - Needs Improvement	1 - Poor
<b>1. Connection to Prompt</b>	Directly addresses how a faculty/staff member made a difference. Clear and focused throughout.	Stays on topic with minor digressions.	Mostly on topic but lacks depth or clarity.	Weak connection to the prompt.	Unclear or no connection.
<b>2. Storytelling &amp; Impact</b>	Story is powerful, heartfelt, and memorable. Strong emotional or inspirational impact.	Story is meaningful and clear, with some emotional appeal.	Story is present but lacks strong emotional or inspirational elements.	Story is vague or underdeveloped.	Story is confusing or missing.
<b>3. Writing Quality &amp; Organization</b>	Essay is well-organized, logical, and flows smoothly. Excellent grammar and mechanics.	Organized with minor issues in flow or grammar.	Adequate structure, some grammar issues.	Poorly structured, many grammar errors.	Disorganized, hard to follow, major grammar issues.
<b>4. Voice &amp; Authenticity</b>	Strong, genuine voice. Clearly written from the student's personal perspective.	Authentic voice is mostly present.	Somewhat personal but feels generic at times.	Voice is weak or inconsistent.	Lacks authenticity. Feels impersonal or artificial.

Total: \_\_\_/20