

## A Tribute to Moral Courage 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.**

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

\*scoring rubric based on ESU #3 Writing Assessment System

