

NY Newspapers Foundation’s Law Day Student Essay 2023 Contest Rubric

Criteria	1	2	3	4
Introduction Thesis/Focus	Limited or no introduction to the topic Author’s purpose is unclear/thesis is weak or missing	Topic is stated in the introduction Thesis is somewhat clear but arguable	Introduction is understandable and interesting Thesis is clear and offers a preview of supporting evidence	Introduction is compelling and engages the reader immediately Thesis is clear, defensible and completely addresses the writing prompt
Support/ Reasoning	Evidence is unrelated to the topic Little or no connections are made between evidence and claim/thesis	Evidence is related to the topic but may only repeat the reasoning without offering details Details are too general, not interpreted correctly, or only loosely related to the topic	Evidence is accurate and relevant to the thesis Assumptions are not always recognized or made explicit. Contains some appropriate details	Evidence is accurate and relevant to the thesis. Fully supports claims of the writer Substantial, logical and clear development of ideas. Assumptions are explicit. Details are specific, germane and convincingly articulated
Use of sources/ documentation	No citations or attributions	Uses citations but lacks a variety of sources. Quotations may be too long or inconsistently referenced	Uses sources to support ideas. Does not overuse quotes. Properly gives attribution and uses citations	Uses sources to support, inform and extend the writer’s own ideas. Brings together materials from a variety of quality sources. Does not overuse quotes. Properly gives attribution and uses citations

Conclusion	No conclusion is given.	Conclusion is vague or abrupt.	Summarizes the argument.	Summarizes the argument and increase their knowledge or participation in causes for equal rights and social justice
Coherence and Organization	Little to no organization of the writing makes the essay incoherent	The loose organization of writing makes the author's argument hard to follow Writing style is inconsistent throughout the essay	Writing is organized in a logical manner Author establishes and maintains a consistent writing style throughout the essay Word choice is appropriate but repetitive	Writing exhibits clear organization that presents complex ideas in a logical manner Word choice is specific, purposeful, and varied Style and voice are appropriate and show originality and creativity
Control of Conventions	Main ideas unclear, illegible, grammar and spelling errors consistent throughout and interferes with comprehension of the essay	Use of literary technique to convey main ideas but lacks clarity Sentence structure lacks variety but essay mostly developed	Literary style partially clear and effective, good grammar & spelling Sentence structure somewhat varied; essay well developed and cohesive	Literary style completely clear and effective, excellent grammar and spelling Varied sentence structure, essay well developed and cohesive