**Ohio Beef Youth Council**

**Beef Brief Creative Writing Contest Judging Rubric (100 Points)**

***All submissions will be evaluated using the same judging criteria, with expectations for writing quality, research, and critical thinking adjusted appropriately for each age division.***

| Criteria | Outstanding | Excellent | Good | Needs Improvement | Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Understanding of Topic & Response to Prompt (25 pts)** | **23-25** Demonstrates exceptional understanding of the selected issue. Thoroughly answers every aspect of the prompt while showing insight into the beef industry. Clearly explains why the issue matters and communicates ideas confidently. | **19-22** Shows strong understanding of the topic and addresses nearly all parts of the prompt. Minor details or depth may be lacking. | **14-18** Shows basic understanding but discussion lacks depth or misses important components of the prompt. | **0-13** Limited understanding. Off-topic, incomplete, or fails to answer the prompt. | _____ /25 |
| **2. Research, Accuracy & Supporting Evidence (20 pts)** | **18-20** Information is accurate, current, and supported with strong facts, examples, statistics, or credible sources. Sources (when required) are integrated naturally | **15-17** Information is mostly accurate with several good supporting facts or examples. Minor inaccuracies or limited supporting evidence. | **10-14** Some factual information included but lacks sufficient evidence or contains noticeable inaccuracies. | **0-9** Very little factual support. Multiple inaccuracies or unsupported opinions. Required sources missing when applicable. | _____ /20 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | and strengthen the paper. | | Limited research evident. | | |
| **3. Critical Thinking & Originality (15 pts)** | **14-15** Analyzes the issue thoughtfully. Considers multiple viewpoints, explains reasoning clearly, and offers creative ideas or solutions. Demonstrates independent thinking. | **11-13** Shows good analysis with some original thought. Attempts to discuss different perspectives. | **7-10** Mostly summarizes information without much analysis or personal insight. Limited originality. | **0-6** Minimal analysis or creativity. Ideas are underdeveloped or copied from obvious sources. | _____ /15 |
| **4. Organization & Flow (15 pts)** | **14-15** Strong introduction that captures attention, logical progression of ideas, smooth transitions, and a memorable conclusion. Writing is easy to follow. | **11-13** Well organized with clear beginning, middle, and end. Minor issues with transitions or flow. | **7-10** Some organization present, but ideas occasionally jump around or lack transitions. | **0-6** Poor organization. Difficult to follow ideas or understand the author's message. | _____ /15 |
| **5. Writing Style & Mechanics (15 pts)** | **14-15** Writing is polished, engaging, and appropriate for the | **11-13** Minor grammar or spelling errors that do not distract from | **7-10** Several grammar or spelling errors that occasionally | **0-6** Frequent writing errors that make the | _____ /15 |

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | audience. Virtually no grammar, spelling, punctuation, or sentence structure errors. Excellent vocabulary and sentence variety. | the writing. Good word choice and sentence structure. | interfere with readability. Repetitive sentence structure. | paper difficult to read or understand. | |
| **6. Contest Requirements & Professionalism (10 pts)** | **9-10** Meets all contest requirements including word count, originality, prompt selection, formatting, participant's own work, and required citations (when applicable). Follows directions completely. | **7-8** Minor formatting or requirement issues that do not significantly impact the entry. | **4-6** One or two contest requirements missing or incomplete. | **0-3** Multiple contest requirements not met, plagiarism concerns, AI-generated content, incorrect word count, or missing required components. | _____ /10 |

**Total Score: ____ / 100**

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**Judge Comments**

**Strengths:**

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**Suggestions for Improvement:**

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