

**Detroit Branch NAACP  
Rubric • Annual Essay Contest  
(g. 1-2)**

SCORE	
<b>Statement of Purpose/Organization</b>	
Provides well-elaborated ideas, events, or sequence of events related to the topic/prompt. Includes details to describe actions, thoughts, and/or feelings. Uses time-order words to signal event order. Provides a sense of closure.	4
Provides two or more appropriately sequenced events related to the topic/prompt. Includes details regarding what happened. Uses time-time order words to sequence events. Provides some closure.	3
Ideas are generally on topic/prompt. Details are present, but not developed (i.e., lists)	2
Attempts to make a point: some ideas are clear and some are fuzzy.	1
<b>Elaboration of Details /Language</b>	
Uses precise, accurate, words. Creates vivid images in a natural way. Attempts at figurative language. Uses a variety of sentence beginnings. Shows control over standard grammar.	4
Experiments with “new” words with some success. Attempts to use descriptive words to create images. Attempts complex sentences: not all sentences begin the same. Noun/pronoun agreement, verb tense, subject/verb agreement.	3
Uses general or ordinary words. Relies on slang, clichés, or repetition. Sentences tend to begin the same. Attempts at standard grammar.	2
Uses functional language. Attempts simple sentences. Nonstandard grammar is frequent.	1
<b>Conventions</b>	
There are only 1-2 words spelled incorrectly and all high frequency words are spelled correctly. Capitals are used for proper nouns and sentence beginnings. End punctuation is used correctly and creatively. Commas are used in greetings, dates and closing.	4
There are 3-4 words spelled incorrectly, but all high frequency words are spelled correctly. Capitals at the beginning of sentences and variable use on proper nouns. End punctuation is correct. Few errors in comma use.	3
Five or more words spelled incorrectly with 3 or more errors found in high frequency words. Uses capitals at beginning of sentences; usually punctuates correctly. Several errors using commas in greetings, date, and closing.	2
Most words are spelled incorrectly. Uses mixed upper and lower case letters in sentences. Punctuation is used randomly.	1