

CATEGORY III: WRITING AND ORATORY

Extemporaneous Essay:

Competitors are allotted 60 minutes to compose a handwritten essay on a randomly selected topic related to the theme.

Extemporaneous Speaking:

The art of extemporaneous speaking is for those who can always make conversation. Delivering a coherent, engaging, and moving speech is easy enough, right? Now try doing that on the spot with only 15 minutes of preparation!

Original Oratory:

Competitors present a memorized original oration within a seven (7) minute period. The oration must relate back to the theme, but also be applicable to a general audience.

Poetry:

Competitors must submit an original piece of poetry never before published within a 40 line limit. The piece must clearly relate back to the theme, but also be applicable to a general audience.

Prepared Essay:

Have you been inspired by this year's MIST theme? The prepared essay competition is perfect if you're looking for an outlet. This is your chance to be creative and persuade us on the significance of your chosen topic. Share the passion!

Short Fiction:

Competitors are to submit an original work of fiction no longer than 10 pages that relates to the theme and can also be applied to a competitor-defined target audience. Illustrations are permitted for younger intended audiences.

Spoken Word:

If you're more of the performer type of a poet, then spoken word is for you! Here's your chance to convey your passion and originality, all while inspiring those around you.

EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY

Format: In-Person

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Names and other identifying information should not be written anywhere on the final submission.
2. All competitors are to report to the competition room at the same time, which will be designated in the competition schedule.
3. Paper and pen/pencil will be provided, but students may feel free to bring their own.
4. Students will choose one topic from a selection of three.
 - a. The topics will be relevant to the annual theme or current events.
5. Students are allotted 60 minutes to complete their essay, written in the English language.
 - a. The submission is to be turned in to the proctor at the end of the hour but can be turned in earlier.
6. Students are allowed to bring printed reference materials (such as newspapers or articles) or quotations relevant to the theme or current affairs with them to use for citation during the competition, but prepared notes or personal essays are not allowed.
 - a. Materials must be reviewed and approved at the sole discretion of the Competition Moderator before the competition begins.
7. Electronic device usage is not permitted during the competition.

DETAILED BALLOT: EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Participant is on time for the competition.
- The participant stopped writing when time was called.
- There are no identifiers on the submission aside from their MIST ID.

Section B: Content

Conventions

Points: 10

- Is the essay mostly free of spelling mistakes? - 1 for each error
- Is the essay mostly free of punctuation mistakes? - 1 for each error
- Is the essay mostly free of grammatical mistakes? - 2 for each error
- If (optional) references are correctly cited in the paper? +1 for each citation
- Are (optional) references not cited in the paper? - 2 for each error

Ideas and Development

Points: 20

- Did the writer answer one of the topics with sufficient detail?
- Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the topic?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire essay?
- Was the main idea or message clear to the reader?

Organization

Points: 15

- Did the introduction grab the reader's attention with a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise supporting points?
- Were adequate details, examples, and support provided for each supporting point?
- Were the paragraphs well-developed, each with their own main idea?
- Did the conclusion link back to the introduction?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 15

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, do the sentences flow well together?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 25

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives to create more vivid imagery?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs to support the essay's message
 - i. I.e. "cruise" instead of "drive," or "stroll" instead of "walk"
- Did the writer use precise nouns to help present a clear and distinct message
 - i. I.e. "7th Grade students" instead of just "students," or "Science project" instead of "project"
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the writing? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

Voice

Points: 15

- Does the reader show passion about his/her topic?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?

EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY BALLOT

| | | Subtotal |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Section A | Technical | ____ / 5 points |
| Section B | Conventions | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Ideas and Development | ____ / 20 points |
| Section B | Organization | ____ / 15 points |
| Section B | Sentence Fluency | ____ / 15 points |
| Section C | Word Choice | ____ / 20 points |
| Section C | Voice | ____ / 15 points |

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

Format: In-Person

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. All competitors are to report to the competition room at the same time, which will be designated in the competition schedule.
2. Paper and pen/pencil will be provided, but students may feel free to bring their own.
3. Students will choose one topic from a selection of three at the start of their turn.
 - a. The topics will be relevant to the annual theme or current events.
4. Topics are to be phrased in the form of a question.
 - a. Topics will not necessarily require reference materials, but will require an understanding of contemporary issues affecting Muslims domestically and internationally.
 - b. Example topic: Does a significant rift exist between African-American Muslims and immigrant Muslim communities?
5. Depending on the number of students who sign up for this event, the competition might be conducted in a series of rounds, with only the top competitors advancing to subsequent rounds.
6. Students are allowed to bring their own printed reference materials (such as newspapers or articles) or quotations relevant to the theme or current affairs with them to use for citation during the competition, but prepared notes or personal essays are not allowed.
 - a. Materials must be reviewed and approved at the sole discretion of the Moderator before the competition begins.
 - b. If any reference is used the participant **MUST** cite the reference during his or her speech. The use of reference material is optional.
7. Fifteen minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the others.
 - a. The other competitors shall draw in like manner, in their speaking order, at seven-minute intervals.
 - b. A competitor drawing a topic on which someone else has already spoken previously on, shall return that topic and draw again.
8. After the competitor has chosen a topic, they shall withdraw to the preparation area and have fifteen (15) minutes to plan their speech without conferring or exchanging information with anyone.
 - a. No prepared notes or outlines will be allowed in the preparation room. Reference to books, magazines and a bibliographical file is permitted.
9. Once a competitor has chosen a topic, they may neither change from nor alter that topic.
 - a. No visual aids may be used in the delivery of the speech.
10. A note card may be used in preliminary rounds of invitational qualifying tournaments but is not permitted in any elimination rounds of these tournaments.
11. The time limit is seven minutes maximum with thirty-second grace period.
 - a. Violation of this rule will result in the competitor being ranked last in the round when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.
12. Electronic device usage is not permitted during the competition.

DETAILED BALLOT: EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

NOTE: Students do NOT have to use references. If they do use references, they may be awarded 2 points. However, if a student uses references and does NOT cite them, 3 points will be deducted.

Section A: Technical

Points: 10

- Participant is on time for the competition
- Did the speech finish within the seven minutes allotted? If not, did it end before the 30 second grace period finished?
- The participant gives no identifiers aside from their MIST ID.
- Participant looks credible and dressed for an interview.

Section B: Content

Introduction

Points: 10

- Did the speaker get the audience's attention?
- Was the topic clearly stated/addressed?
- Did the speaker preview and give focus to the key ideas?

Body

Points: 15

- Was adequate time devoted to each division within the seven minute time limit?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Conclusion

Points: 10

- Did the speaker tie the speech together?
- Was the answer to the question clear?
- Was there a note of finality?

Section C: Presentation

Analysis and Content

Points: 15

- Did the speaker answer the question?
- Was the content informative?
- Was there sufficient use of logic, facts, examples, and/or expert opinion?
- Was the information pertinent to the selected topic?

Delivery

Points: 15

- Was the delivery natural, lively, and spontaneous?
- Was enunciation clear? Was volume appropriate?
- Was there sufficient variety in rate, pause, and pitch?
- Did the speaker exhibit poise and confidence?
- Were gestures varied, movement motivated, and eye contact direct?

Language

Points: 15

- Did the speaker exhibit command of conversational style?
- Was the language precise, grammatically correct, and vivid?

Section D:Overall Experience**Points: 1-10**

After the perusing of the extemporaneous speaking content, performance, and interview, rate the entire experience from 1 to 10:

- 1 being very poor (no organization, intonation, or relation to the theme)
- 4 to 6 being average
- 10 being exceptional (memorable performance, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional extemporaneous speech content).

EXTEMPORANEOUS ESSAY BALLOT

Speech Duration: ____ : ____

| | | Subtotal |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Section A | Technical | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Introduction | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Body | ____ / 15 points |
| Section B | Conclusion | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Analysis and Content | ____ / 15 points |
| Section C | Delivery | ____ / 15 points |
| Section C | Language | ____ / 15 points |
| Section C | Overall Experience | ____ / 10 points |

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

ORIGINAL ORATORY

Format: In-Person

Early Submission Requirements: None

On-Site Submission Requirements:

- Three (3) copies of the oratory piece must be submitted to judges on-site, at the time of the competition

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition.
2. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. MIST ID and order of competition will be pre-assigned on a random selection basis.
2. All competitors are to report to the competition room at the same time, which will be designated in the competition schedule.
3. The Orator must provide 3 hardcopies of his/her script to be turned in during the competition orientation.
 - a. MIST will not photocopy any scripts.
 - b. Competitors must come prepared with their copies.
 - c. The competitor must compete with the script that is submitted at that time.
4. Orations must be labeled with the MIST ID ONLY. The competitor name must not appear anywhere on the work.
5. The orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.
6. The oration may not contain more than 150 words of quoted material.
 - a. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
 - b. Orators caught plagiarizing or extensively paraphrasing will be disqualified.
7. No visual aids may be used in the delivery of the speech.
8. An orator holding a manuscript or notes will be ranked last.
9. Time limit is seven minutes maximum with thirty-second grace period. Violation of this rule will result in the competitor being ranked last in the round when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.
10. Electronic device usage is not permitted during the competition.

DETAILED BALLOT: ORIGINAL ORATORY

Section A: Technical

Points: 10

- Participant is on time for the competition
- Did the speech finish within the seven minutes allotted? If not, did it end before the 30 second grace period finished?
- The participant gives no identifiers aside from their MIST ID.
- Participant looks credible and dressed for an interview.

Section B: Content

Introduction

Points: 10

- Did the speaker get the audience's attention?
- Was the topic clearly stated/addressed?
- Did the speaker preview and give focus to the key ideas?

Body

Points: 15

- Was adequate time devoted to each division within the seven minute time limit?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Conclusion

Points: 10

- Did the speaker tie the speech together?
- Was the answer to the question clear?
- Was there a note of finality?

Section C: Presentation

Analysis and Content

Points: 15

- Did the speakers oration revolve around the theme?
- Was the content informative?
- Was there sufficient use of logic, facts, examples, and/or expert opinion?
- Was the information pertinent to the selected topic?

Delivery

Points: 15

- Was the delivery natural, lively, and spontaneous?
- Was enunciation clear? Was volume appropriate?
- Was there sufficient variety in rate, pause, and pitch?
- Did the speaker exhibit poise and confidence?
- Were gestures varied, movement motivated, and eye contact direct?

Language

Points: 15

- Did the speaker exhibit command of conversational style?
- Was the language precise, grammatically correct, and vivid?

Section D: Overall Experience

Points: 1-10

After the perusing of the extemporaneous speaking content, performance, and interview, rate the entire experience from 1 to 10:

- 1 being very poor (no organization, intonation, or relation to the theme)
- 4 to 6 being average
- 10 being exceptional (memorable performance, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional extemporaneous speech content).

ORIGINAL ORATORY BALLOT

Oration Duration: ____ : ____

| | | Subtotal |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Section A | Technical | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Introduction | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Body | ____ / 15 points |
| Section B | Conclusion | ____ / 10 points |
| Section C | Analysis and Content | ____ / 15 points |
| Section C | Delivery | ____ / 15 points |
| Section C | Language | ____ / 15 points |
| Section D | Overall Experience | ____ / 10 points |

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

POETRY

Format: Online

Early Submission Requirements:

- Competitors must submit their Poetry piece, 2 weeks before the Regional Tournament.

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Poetry must clearly reflect upon any aspect of this year's theme.
2. Submissions must be labeled with the MIST ID and the title only.
 - a. The competitor's name must not appear anywhere on the work.
3. Competitors may incorporate any style or genres of poetry including rhymed, lyric, dramatic, narrative, or free verse.
4. All poems must have a title and must not exceed 40 lines in length (excluding title).
5. Poems must be the original work of the entrant.
 - a. Entries must not have been published, self-published, published on a website or broadcast before January 2023
6. A PDF copy of the poem must be submitted via MyMIST two weeks before the Regional Tournament.
 - a. Late submissions will result in a point deduction on your final score.
7. This will be an entirely virtual competition. As such, competitors are not required to turn in a copy during the tournament.
8. Entries should be typed in black ink only.
9. Entries can be double or single-spaced.
10. Poetry submissions must include a filled-out "Poetry Analyzing Written Statement".

Checklist:

- PDF copy of Poetry Piece and Written Poetry Analyzing Statement submitted on MyMIST Headquarters 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- Both the submission and the written statement should be clearly labeled with:
 - MIST IDs
 - Name of Competition

POETRY ANALYZING WRITTEN STATEMENT

The following worksheet should be included with your poetry submission. The responses to each section must be typed, not handwritten.

Section 1: Poem Identity

1. Form of Poetry (ie Ballad, Sonnet, etc):

Section 2: Explanation of Poem

1. Provide an explanation for your poem in 250 words or less.

Section 3: Elements of Poetry

1. Identify at least five (5) elements of poetry from your writing.
2. State the line number in which the example can be found, the type of element it is, and then explain your example (i.e. alliteration, metaphor, assonance, personification etc)

Section 4: Example of Inferences

1. Provide an example of inference from your writing.
2. State the line number and explain what it is that you wished to infer (i.e. historical inference, literary inference, etc).

Section 5: Mechanics, Grammar, Spelling

(All answers must be answered within 500 words or less)

1. In what ways does your piece represent your individuality? What inspired or influenced you when writing your piece?
2. Are there any subtleties in the piece you were wishing would come across to the audience without having to be explained?
3. Do you feel you conveyed the theme well in your piece?

DETAILED BALLOT: POETRY

Section A: Technical

Points: 10

- The poem does not exceed 40 lines.
- The “Poetry Worksheet” is completed.
- The poem is typed in black ink only.
- The participant gives no identifiers aside from their MIST ID.

Section B: Poem Elements

Points: 30

- Is the poetry piece free from any inappropriate content? If not, do not score the rest of the section; competitor receives 0/25. If so, continue scoring.
- Is the structure of the piece easy to follow?
- Is the form of the poem appropriate to the subject? Does the poem enable the reader to see, hear, feel, or think about the subject in a new way or in a more potent way than ever before?
- Does the poem use sensory details and figurative language to create vivid images that contribute significantly to the meaning of the poem?
- Are sound devices, such as rhyme, alliteration, or onomatopoeia, used effectively and contribute to the meaning of the poem?
- Is word choice vivid and exact throughout?

Section C: Overall Impression of Written Piece

Points: 25

- Is the title clearly stated?
- Does the piece create an appropriate mood?
- Does the competitor’s writing convey creativity and originality?
- Does the competitor’s writing grab your attention and convey sincerity?

Section D: Written Statement Criteria

Points: 25

- Section 1 Poem Identity
- Section 2 Coherent Explanation
- Section 3 Elements of Poetry
- Section 4 Example of Inference
- Section 5 Mechanics, Grammar, Spelling
- Interview Questions

Section E: Overall Experience

Points: 10

After the perusing of the extemporaneous speaking content, performance, and interview, rate the entire experience from 1 to 10:

- 1 being very poor (no organization, intonation, or relation to the theme)
- 4 to 6 being average
- 10 being exceptional (memorable performance, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional extemporaneous speech content).

POETRY BALLOT

| | | Subtotal |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Section A | Technical | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Poem Elements | ____ / 30 points |
| Section C | Overall Impression | ____ / 25 points |
| Section D | Written Statement Criteria | ____ / 25 points |
| Section E | Overall Experience | ____ / 10 points |

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

PREPARED ESSAY

Format: Online

Early Submission Requirements:

- Competitors must submit their Prepared Essay, 2 weeks before the Regional Tournament.

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Competitors shall write about any topic that reflects this year's theme.
 - a. The topic chosen must refer to authentic sources of Islamic knowledge, as well as to historical facts.
2. The written essay must be typed or word-processed and double-spaced.
 - a. It must be on white, 8.5 X 11 paper.
3. The essay **MUST** have a cover page.
 - a. The cover page must include the title and MIST ID only.
 - b. The competitor's name must not appear anywhere on the submission.
4. If outside sources are used, proper MLA citations as well as a "Works Cited" page must be included in the essay.
5. A PDF copy of the prepared essay must be submitted via MyMIST two weeks before the Regional Tournament.
 - a. Late submissions will result in a point deduction on your final score.
 - b. Your region may have different deadlines for this competition. Contact your Regional Competitions Headquarters for more information.
6. This will be an entirely virtual competition. As such, competitors are not required to turn in a copy during the tournament.
 - a. Entries should be typed in black ink only.
 - b. Entries can be double or single-spaced.
7. The written essay shall be a minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 2,000 words.
 - a. All abbreviations, acronyms (excluding a, an, the) will be counted.
 - b. Only the first 2,000 countable words will be read.
8. Competitors will be judged according to the Prepared Essay Ballot.

Checklist:

- PDF copy of written essay and written statement submitted on MyMIST Headquarters 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- Written statement based on interview questions (Section D of Prepared Essay Ballot).
- Both the submission and the written statement should be clearly labeled with:
 - MIST IDs
 - Name of Competition

DETAILED BALLOT: PREPARED ESSAY

Section A: Technical

Conventions

Points: 5

- Is the essay mostly free of spelling mistakes?
- Is the essay mostly free of grammatical mistakes?
- Is the essay mostly free of punctuation mistakes?

Presentation

Points: 5

- Is the essay typed?
- Is the essay double spaced with type 12 font?
- Does the essay have a cover page with the title and the MIST ID only?
- Is the essay between 1,500 - 2,000 words?
- Are the quotes that have been used given due credit?

Section B: Content

Ideas and Development

Points: 25

- Did the writer address their topic with sufficient detail?
- Did the writer take a unique approach in addressing the topic?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the essay?
- Did the writer use a balance of showing and telling to paint a picture in the reader's mind?
- Was the theme or message clear to the reader?
- Was there outside information used and cited within the essay?

Organization

Points: 25

- Did the introduction include a unique start, a clear thesis statement, and concise controls that grabbed the attention of the reader?
- Was there an adequate amount of details, examples, and support for each control? Did the supporting details reflect the controls?
- Does the title stand for the entire essay and not just a part of it?
- Did the conclusion link back to the introduction and leave a lasting impression on the reader?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 10

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, does the reader hear a rhythm behind the sentence?
- Was there a logical progression of ideas?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 10

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives that helped create an image in the reader's mind?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs that help support the essay's message? (ex: "cruise" instead of "drive," "stroll" instead of "walk")
- Did the writer use precise nouns that helped present a clear and distinct message? (ex: "7th grade students" instead of "students," or "science project" instead of "project")
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the description? Was it clear that the writer took risks

Voice**Points: 5**

- Does the reader show passion about his/her topic?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?

Section D: Application of Theme**Written Statement****Points: 15**

- There is a strong, clearly evident relevance to the theme.
- The theme is expressed in a unique or outstanding way.
- Purpose and inspiration of writings are clearly articulated and show evidence of reflection and/or research.
- Essay is easily understandable for Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

Judges will use the following questions to gauge the competitors' understanding of the theme and how it was expressed in their work. Judges will then proceed to scoring.

1. How did you aim to convey this year's theme in your work? In what ways does your artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?
2. Explain your purpose in developing this artwork and describe how you achieved that goal. Describe any influences from art history, artists, or art periods or styles that contributed to the development of this artwork.
3. What elements or principles of art did you use, and how did you select and organize the visual aspects of this work?

PREPARED ESSAY BALLOT

| | | Subtotal |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Section A | Conventions | _____ / 5 points |
| Section B | Presentation | _____ / 5 points |
| Section B | Ideas and Development | _____ / 25 points |
| Section B | Organization | _____ / 25 points |
| Section B | Sentence Fluency | _____ / 10 points |
| Section C | Word Choice | _____ / 10 points |
| Section C | Voice | _____ / 5 points |
| Section D | Applicattion of Theme | _____ / 5 points |

Total: _____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

SHORT FICTION

Format: Online

Early Submission Requirements:

- Competitors must submit their Short Fiction piece and written statement, 2 weeks before the Regional Tournament.

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition.
2. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Competitors must identify a target audience on the title page.
2. PDF copy of the short fiction piece must be submitted via MyMIST two weeks before the Regional Tournament.
 - a. Late submissions will result in a point deduction on your final score.
3. This will be an entirely virtual competition. As such, competitors are not required to turn in a copy during the tournament.
 - a. Entries should be typed in black ink only.
 - b. Entries can be double or single-spaced.
4. All submissions must:
 - a. Be typed and double spaced
 - b. Have a cover page with the title, MIST ID, and intended audience age group only. The competitor name or other identifying markers must not appear anywhere on the submission.
 - c. Be typed on 8.5 X 11 inch paper.
 - d. No more than 10 pages (exclusive of title page and written statement), Times New Roman, 12 pt font.
 - e. Include a written statement based on the interview questions
5. Competitors will be judged according to the Short Fiction Ballot.

Checklist:

- PDF copy of written Short Fiction piece and Written statement submitted on MyMIST Headquarters 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- Written statement based on interview questions (Section D of Short Fiction Ballot).
- Both the submission and the written statement should be clearly labeled with:
 - MIST IDs
 - Name of Competition

DETAILED BALLOT: SHORT FICTION

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Short Fiction piece does not exceed 10 (ten) pages.
- There are no identifiers on the submission aside from their MIST ID.

Section B: Content

Conventions

Points: 5

- Is the piece mostly free of spelling mistakes?
- Is the piece mostly free of punctuation mistakes?
- Is the piece mostly free of grammatical mistakes?

Ideas and Development

Points: 15

- Did the writer address the theme in a clear manner?
- Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the theme?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire submission?
- Was the main idea or message clear to the reader?

Organization

Points: 10

- Is the title relevant and applicable to the story?
- Does the story have a logical series of events?
- Were there adequate details that led to a natural flow between introduction, plot, climax, and resolution?
- Were the paragraphs well-developed with natural transitions?
- Was the story original, not falling into cliché story lines?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 15

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, do the sentences flow well together?
- Was dialogue used where appropriate?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 20

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives to create more vivid imagery?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs to support the essay's message (i.e. "cruise" instead of "drive," or "stroll" instead of "walk")?
- Did the writer use precise nouns to help present a clear and distinct message (i.e. "7th Grade students" instead of just "students," or "Science project" instead of "project")?
- Was the dialogue formatted in an appropriate way?
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the writing? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

Word Choice

Points: 15

- Was the writer able to distinguish a clear voice in the story?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?
- Does the writer appropriately reach the target audience?

Section D: Application of Theme

Written Statement

Points: 15

- There is a strong, clearly evident relevance to the theme.
- The theme is expressed in a unique or outstanding way.
- Purpose and inspiration of writings are clearly articulated and show evidence of reflection and/or research.
- Short Fiction piece is easily understandable for Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

Judges will use the following questions to gauge the competitors' understanding of the theme and how it was expressed in their work. Judges will then proceed to scoring.

1. How did you aim to convey this year's theme in your work? In what ways does your artwork represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?
2. Explain your purpose in developing this artwork and describe how you achieved that goal. Describe any influences from art history, artists, or art periods or styles that contributed to the development of this artwork.
3. What elements or principles of art did you use, and how did you select and organize the visual aspects of this work?

SHORT FICTION BALLOT

| | | Subtotal |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Section A | Technical | ____ / 5 points |
| Section B | Conventions | ____ / 5 points |
| Section B | Ideas and Development | ____ / 15 points |
| Section B | Organization | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Sentence Fluency | ____ / 15 points |
| Section C | Word Choice | ____ / 20 points |
| Section C | Voice | ____ / 15 points |
| Section D | Overall Experience | ____ / 15 points |

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

SPOKEN WORD

Format: In-Person

On-Site Submission Requirements:

- Three (3) copies of the Spoken Word piece must be submitted to judges on-site, at the time of the competition

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition.
2. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Competitors must come prepared with copies of their Spoken Word Pieces
 - a. MIST will not photocopy any spoken word pieces pieces of spoken
 - b. The competitor must compete with the piece that is submitted at that time.
2. Orations must be labeled with the MIST ID ONLY. The competitors name must not appear anywhere on the work
3. All competitors are to report to the competition room at the same time, which will be designated in the competition schedule.
4. Spoken word pieces will be judged based on the following criteria: writing, performance, originality, sincerity, and inspiration
5. The performance should not exceed more than six (6) minutes.
 - a. Points will be deducted from the total score if the performance exceeds the allotted time when visible time signals have been given by the moderator, judge or the authorized timekeeper
6. No instruments can be used for the performance.

DETAILED BALLOT: SPOKEN WORD

Section A: Technical

Points: 10

- Did the piece last less than six minutes?
- The participant gives no identifiers aside from their MIST ID.
- Participant looks credible and dressed for an interview.
- There are three (3) copies of the spoken word piece.

Section B: Written

Points: 35

- Is the Spoken Word piece free from any inappropriate content? If it contains profanity, sexual innuendo, etc., do not score the rest of the section; the competitor receives 0/35. If not, continue scoring.

Content

- Is the structure of the piece easy to follow?
- Is the Spoken Word well written (i.e. Are rhyme, metaphors, and figurative language present in the piece)?
- Does the Spoken Word show originality and creativity?

Section C: Performance

Stage Presence

Points: 25

- Is there a connection with the audience, energy, and excitement?
- Do the competitors make use of the stage space? (i.e. Movement, body language.) Are bodily movements used in an effective manner
- Does the competitor's performance grab your attention and convey sincerity and inspiration?

Familiarity

Points: 20

- Are the words clear and easy to understand? (In their presentation, not interpretation) Is pronunciation acceptable?
- Are rate, pitch, and volume appropriate? Is vocal variety adequate?
- Does the competitor set an adequate mood relating to their spoken word piece?

Section D: Overall Experience

Points: 1-10

After the perusing of the extemporaneous speaking content, performance, and interview, rate the entire experience from 1 to 10:

- 1 being very poor (no organization, intonation, or relation to the theme)
- 4 to 6 being average
- 10 being exceptional (memorable performance, sound understanding of the theme, exceptional extemporaneous speech content).

SPOKEN WORD BALLOT

| | | Subtotal |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Section A | Technical | ____ / 10 points |
| Section B | Content | ____ / 35 points |
| Section C | Stage Performance | ____ / 25 points |
| Section C | Familiarity | ____ / 20 points |
| Section D | Overall Experience | ____ / 10 points |

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback
