

## Judges Scoring Sheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

### CRITERIA FOR JUDGING ESSAYS:

1. Content – 50% ( max 50 points)
  - a. Adherence to Topic
  - b. Factual accuracy
  - c. Clarity of ideas
  - d. Logical development of ideas
2. Form - 25% (Max 25 points)
  - a. Grammar, spelling and punctuation
  - b. Use of words, vocabulary
  - c. Essay length – (750 words maximum)
3. Individuality – 25% (Max 25 points)
  - a. Writing skill or flair
  - b. Use of comparative facts, background information
  - c. Persuasiveness
  - d. Individuality – Handling subject and presenting ideas

### Scoring

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT WRITE ON APPLICATION



## Judges Scoring Sheet

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Town Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Scoring

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT WRITE ON APPLICATION or ESSAY

## ***Guidelines to Use to Detect the Use of AI in the Congressional Essay Contest***

You can tell if an essay is AI-generated by using AI detection tools, like those from [QuillBot](#) and Turnitin, or by manually analyzing the text for signs like repetitive phrases, generic language, factual inaccuracies ("hallucinations"), a lack of personal voice, or awkward phrasing.. No single method is 100% accurate, so combining these approaches is most effective.

### **Using AI Detection Tools**

1. [Upload or copy/paste the text:](#)

Use free tools like [QuillBot](#) or [Grammarly](#) to analyze the essay.

2. [Review the report:](#)

The tools provide a percentage or report indicating how likely the text is to be AI-generated.

### **Manual Analysis of the Essay**

1. Look for generic or repetitive language:

AI models can overuse certain phrases, such as "faced numerous challenges," and may repeat words and ideas more than a human writer would.

2. Check for unnatural phrasing and "hallucinations":

Sentences may sound awkward, or the essay might contain factual errors or fabricate quotes that are known as "hallucinations".

3. Evaluate the tone and voice:

Does the essay sound like a generic, overly polite piece, or does it reflect the author's typical writing style and personal voice?

4. Examine the originality of ideas:

The content might be predictable and lack genuine human emotion, personal anecdotes, or original analogies.

5. Assess logical coherence and sources:

Review the essay for a consistent logical flow and verify any cited sources to ensure they are accurate and not fabricated by the AI.

## **Other Ways to Detect AI in Essays:**

### ***1. Generic or Overly Polished Writing***

- Clue: The essay may sound polished but does not contain a personal, unique voice or authentic emotions.
- Why it's a sign: AI-generated text often uses neutral tones and avoids deep personal insights.
  - AI-Written Example:  
“Resilience is a key trait that I have cultivated over time. It has allowed me to overcome challenges and grow as an individual.”
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
“When I tore my ACL during the volleyball semifinals, the months of grueling rehab taught me more than just physical resilience. It was about rebuilding my confidence, step by step.”

### ***2. Repetition of Key Phrases***

- Clue: Certain phrases or ideas are repeated in slightly different wording.
- Why it's a sign: AI may reuse phrasing within an essay to pad the word count.
  - AI-Written Example:  
“Through teamwork, I learned the importance of collaboration. Collaboration is essential for success in any endeavor.”
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
“During our robotics competition, each team member’s unique strengths came together like gears in a machine. Our shared effort taught me that great ideas only succeed when people genuinely work together.”

### ***3. Broad Generalizations***

- Clue: The essay discusses values or experiences in abstract terms without providing vivid details.
- Why it's a sign: AI struggles to create hyper-specific or truly nuanced personal experiences.
  - AI-Written Example:  
“Helping others has always been my passion, and it’s what I hope to continue doing in the future.”
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
“Volunteering at Burrito Boyz showed me that a simple act, like offering a warm meal, can spark hope in someone’s day. It’s moments like handing Mrs. Carter her favorite burrito on Fridays that fuel my passion for service.”

#### **4. Lack of Specific Personal Details**

- Clue: The essay has general anecdotes but lacks specific names, dates, or unique events.
- Why it's a sign: AI does not have access to the specific life details of the applicant.
  - AI-Written Example:  
"I've participated in many activities that have shaped who I am today."
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
"Leading my school's Shark Conservation Club, I organized a beach clean-up that removed 200 pounds of trash from our local shores and educated 50 community members about marine ecosystems."

#### **5. Mechanical Structure**

- Clue: The essay follows a rigid and formulaic structure (e.g., introduction, three points, conclusion) without natural flow.
- Why it's a sign: AI-generated essays often adhere strictly to templates.
  - AI-Written Example:  
Introduction: "I have many strengths."  
Body: "One of my strengths is leadership. Another strength is creativity."  
Conclusion: "These strengths will help me succeed in college."
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
"At the height of my Girl Scout Gold Award project, our team faced a setback: a major sponsor dropped out. Rallying the team, we pivoted to crowdsource funding, raising \$5,000 to complete our shark conservation campaign. This moment exemplified how I turn obstacles into opportunities."

#### **6. Overuse of Advanced Vocabulary**

- Clue: The essay uses sophisticated vocabulary that feels unnatural or inconsistent with the student's voice.
- Why it's a sign: AI tools often prioritize complex vocabulary to enhance perceived quality.
  - AI-Written Example:  
"My scholastic endeavors have culminated in a prodigious acumen for quantitative analysis and epistemological pursuits."
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
"My love for numbers started when I figured out how to calculate the batting averages for my baseball team in middle school. That curiosity has since grown into a passion for data analysis and problem-solving."

## **7. Unusual Grammatical Choices**

- Clue: The essay may have minor grammatical errors or phrasing that feels “off,” such as overly long sentences or awkward word choices. There also may be a heavy use of dashes in a paragraph or the use of semicolons, which many students don’t normally use.
- Why it’s a sign: AI may make subtle errors in context, especially in phrasing or idiomatic expressions.
  - AI-Written Example:  
“Through various endeavors, I have experienced unique revelations that advanced my individuality.”
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
“Playing jazz piano taught me that creativity isn’t about perfection—it’s about finding my voice, even if I hit a wrong note.”

## **8. Lack of Emotional Depth**

- Clue: The essay lacks raw, vulnerable, or deeply personal moments that show emotional growth or self-reflection.
- Why it’s a sign: AI-generated content often fails to replicate genuine human emotion convincingly.
  - AI-Written Example:  
“Winning the debate competition was a rewarding experience that showed me the value of hard work.”
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
“My palms were clammy, my voice wavered, but when I saw the audience nodding during my debate, I realized that even my shaky delivery could connect with others if my passion shone through.”

## **9. Impersonal Analogies or Metaphors**

- Clue: The essay uses broad, impersonal analogies (e.g., “Life is like a river...”) instead of original, deeply personal comparisons.
- Why it’s a sign: AI often relies on common metaphors rather than crafting unique ones.
  - AI-Written Example:  
“Life is a journey, and I’m ready to navigate its twists and turns.”
  - Human-Written Alternative:  
“Building my first robot was like solving a puzzle without the box—each piece added complexity, but seeing it come to life made the trial-and-error worth it.”