

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

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction Thesis/Focus</b>	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
<b>Support/ Reasoning</b>	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
<b>Use of sources/ documentation</b>	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

<b>Conclusion</b>	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
<b>Coherence and Organization</b>	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
<b>Control of Conventions</b>	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