ARBOR DAY ESSAY CONTEST

JUDGING CRITERIA

The local conservation districts will do initial judging. They are each asked to select one local winner and submit it to the state contest. SDACD, Resource Conservation & Forestry Division, and other organization representatives will do judging at the state level. To assure uniformity, the judging will be based on seven categories with two categories receiving more weight than others. For each essay, a score of 1 to 10 should be assigned to each of the seven categories keeping the following rating system in mind:

Point Value	Rating Description
1 or 2	Poor
3 or 4	Substandard
5 or 6	Fair or Average
7 or 8	Good or Above Average
9 or 10	Excellent or Superior

The seven categories to be rated and their respective weights are as follows:

1. **Originality and Creativity**   40 %
2. **Effectiveness and Clearness**   30 %
3. **Spelling and Punctuation**   10%
4. **Appropriateness of Theme** 5 %
5. **Accuracy of Information**   5 %
6. **Neatness**   5 %
7. **Grammatical Usage**   5 %

To score an essay, assign a point value of 1 to 10 for each of the seven categories. Treat each essay as objectively and fairly as possible. In the case of tie scores, another scorer should be called upon to rate the tied essay and, hopefully, break the deadlock.

Example of scoring:

1. Originality	8 x 10 = 80	80 x 40% =	32
2. Effectiveness	9 x 10 = 90	90 x 30% =	27
3. Spelling/Punctuation	5 x 10 = 50	50 x 10% =	5
4. Appropriateness of Theme	7 x 10 = 70	70 x 5% =	3.5
5. Accuracy	10 x 10 = 100	100 x 5% =	5
6. Neatness	6 x 10 = 60	60 x 5% =	3
7. Grammatical Usage	8 x 10 = 80	80 x 5% =	4
TOTAL			79.5

This essay received a score of 79.5 of a possible 100 points.