Oklahoma Bar Association
Law Day Writing Contest
Upper Elementary Entry Rubric

Category	4	3	2	1
Ideas and Development	• The content is appropriate for audience and purpose. • Writer's opinion addresses the prompt using relevant text-based facts, details, and examples. • Writer summarizes or paraphrases information. • The writer expresses an insightful perspective towards the topic.	• The content is largely appropriate for audience and purpose. • Writer's opinion addresses the prompt using text-based facts, details, and examples. • Writer attempts to summarize or paraphrase information. • Writer sustains a perspective throughout most of the response.	• The content is limited for audience and purpose. • Writer's opinion addresses the prompt using minimal text-based facts, details, and examples. • Writer does not attempt to summarize or paraphrase information. • Writer has difficulty expressing or sustaining a perspective.	• The content is inappropriate for audience and purpose. • Writer's response to the prompt is not developed. • Few, random, or no evidence is elicited from the text. • Writer has little or no perspective.
Organization, Unity, and Coherence	• Introduction presents a clear topic and states an opinion. • Sustained focus on content and structure • Reasons and information that support the writer's purpose are logically ordered. • Transitions between ideas are coherent and link reasons. • Conclusion is compelling and supports the opinion.	• Introduction presents a topic and an opinion. • Focus on content and structure • Reasons and information that support the writer's purpose are partially ordered. • Transitions support and link reasons. • Conclusion is satisfying and supports the opinion.	• Introduction does not present a clear topic or opinion. • Lack of focus on content and structure is evident. • Reasons and information that support the writer's purpose are ordered in random progression. • Transitions are limited and do not link reasons. • Conclusion is incomplete with little support of the information presented.	• Lacks logical direction. • No evidence of organizational structure.
Word Choice	• Figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings are demonstrated effectively. • Concrete words and phrases, sensory details, and domain-specific vocabulary are used effectively to clearly convey ideas.	• Figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings are demonstrated. • Concrete words and phrases, sensory details, and domain-specific vocabulary are used to convey ideas.	• Figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings are limited. • Concrete words and phrase, sensory details, and domain-specific vocabulary are limited.	• Figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings are not evident. • Concrete words and phrases, sensory details, and domain-specific words are lacking.

Sentences and Paragraphs	• Rich variety of sentence structure, type, and length. • Few, if any, fragments or run-ons • Evidence of appropriate paragraphing	• Variety of sentence structure, type, and length • Few fragments or run-ons • Evidence of paragraphing	• Limited variety of sentence structure, type, and length • Several fragments or run-ons • Little or no attempt at paragraphing	• No clear sentence structure. • Many fragments or run-ons • Little or no attempt at paragraphing
Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics	• Effectively demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. • Errors are minor and do not affect readability	• Demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. • Errors may be more noticeable but do not significantly affect readability.	• Demonstrates limited command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. • Errors may be distracting and interfere with readability.	• Demonstrates little or no command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. • Errors are numerous and severely impede readability.