

Essay Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Essay Contest Judging Rubric**

Participants are asked to describe and analyze an act of civic courage by an individual or identifiable group of individuals in Washington State, and to address the following questions: why this act constituted civic courage; how this act impacted our community, region or state; and the risks associated with this action. Use the rubric to judge the essays on the worthiness of the subject, content, and persuasiveness. Give each category one number score, ranging from 1-4 and total the score at the top.

	4 Excellent	3 Proficient	2 Partial	1 Unsatisfactory	NOTES
<b><u>Worthiness of Subject</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoughtful, original choice of subject</li> <li>• Demonstrates understanding of civic courage</li> </ul>					
<b><u>Content</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets context for courageous act</li> <li>• Explains why this act serves the public interest</li> <li>• Well-researched</li> <li>• Communicates ideas clearly</li> <li>• Conclusions follow logically from the arguments made</li> <li>• Correct syntax, grammar, spelling and punctuation</li> <li>• Bibliography of three or more varied sources, including one primary source</li> <li>• Sources thoughtfully selected and reliable</li> <li>• Integrates information from diverse sources into a coherent argument</li> </ul>					
<b><u>Persuasiveness</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proves that the individual or group took risks to achieve their objective</li> <li>• Conveys magnitude of risks and obstacles faced</li> <li>• Demonstrates significance of impact on the community</li> <li>• Convincing arguments supported with specific examples (i.e. back up all assertions with facts)</li> <li>• Clear, compelling and consistent voice</li> </ul>					