

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest 2025 | Scoring Rubric

CRITERION	1 POINT	2 POINTS	3 POINTS	4 POINTS
Understanding of Leopold quote	Not incorporated	Vague allusions to Leopold's thoughts	Appreciation of Leopold's underlying ethos	Reflects a deep understanding of the quote's meaning
Overall writing quality	Poorly constructed, technically unsound	Adequate construction, some technical errors	Well written, free of errors	Skillful writing
Voice/Tone	Writing contains little or no personality	Writing seems mechanical	Engaged tone is apparent in parts of writing	Expressive, engaging, sincere
Writer's response to the prompt	Not responsive	Responsive, but vague	Clear response to prompt	Extended, well-reasoned response
Writer's ability to express their own personal or cultural perspective on the prompt	The writer's personal or cultural background or perspective are not identified	Identified, but general expression of the writer's personal or cultural background or perspective	Identified and specific expression of the writer's personal or cultural background or perspective	Clear, distinctive, and insightful expression of the writer's personal or cultural background or perspective
Creativity	Lacks creative/unique writing and/or content	Essay incorporates creative elements	Contains some elements of creativity in essay content or writing style	Creative and unique response to prompt in content and/or writing style