Leopold Writing Contest | Scoring Rubric

CRITERION	1 POINT	2 POINTS	3 POINTS	4 POINTS	5 POINTS
Understanding of quotes	Not incorporated	Vague allusions to one or both quotes	Shows a solid attempt to analyze and consider both quotes	Shows a thoughtful exploration of underlying ethos of quotes	Reflects a deep analysis of the quotes' meanings
Overall writing quality	Poorly constructed, technically unsound	Adequate construction, some technical errors	Adequately written, few or no 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	Engaged, expressive tone is apparent	Expressive, engaging, sincere
Writer's response to the prompt	Not responsive	Responsive, but vague	Mostly clear response to prompt	Clear, focused 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	Limited expression of the writer's personal or cultural background or perspective	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 minimal creative elements	Contains some elements of creativity in essay content or writing style	Essay is creative in content or writing style	Notably creative and unique response to prompt in content and/or writing style

Judges will be allowed to grant one additional point per judging round to acknowledge writing strengths that are not covered by the above criteria.