



**Essay Rubric**  
**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay and Slogan Contest**  
**Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes**

<u>(33.3%) Research and understanding the First Amendment</u>	
• Limited or no understanding	3
• Basic understanding of subject with minimal confusion	6
• Thorough understanding of the concepts presented in the prompt	9
• Mastery of the concepts with application of the importance of voting and the protection guaranteed by freedom of speech and of the press	12
<u>(33.3%) Idea development/support</u>	
• Minimal idea development; limited and/or related details	3
• Unelaborated idea development; unelaborated and/or repetitious ideas	6
• Depth of idea development supported by elaborated, relevant details	9
• Depth and complexity of ideas supported by rich, engaging, and pertinent details; evidence of analysis, reflection, insight	12
<u>(11.1%) Organization</u>	
• Random and/or weak organization	1
• Lapses in organization, focus and/or coherence	2
• Logical, coherent, focused organization	3
• Subtle and sophisticated organization	4
<u>(11.1%) Sentence structure</u>	
• Weak structure, weak verbs, incomplete sentences or run-on sentences, dangling participles	1
• Some structural weaknesses with weak verbs	2
• Minimal use of weak verbs, no incomplete sentences or run-on sentences	3
• Strong sentences, varied in length, sound verbs, minimal use of “there are”	4
<u>(11.1%) Grammar/Correctness</u>	
• Excessive errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar	1
• Some errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar that do not interfere with communication	2
• Minimal errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar relative to length and complexity	3
• Control of spelling, punctuation, and capitalization	4