

DAR Essay Contest – 2010-2011: Evaluation Criteria

Category	Description	Points Possible	Teacher Score
Ideas:	You include relevant, quality insights and details from the time period around the Revolutionary War. Your memoir realistically touches on the thoughts and feelings of your Paul Revere and his impact on American history. Your information goes beyond the obvious or predictable.	20	
Organization:	You hook your reader with an engaging introduction and leave off with a satisfying conclusion. Your events and the details within are placed in logical order. You connect ideas and paragraphs with thoughtful transitions. The overall organization enhances the reader's understanding of Paul Revere and his relationship with the historical events around the Revolutionary War.	20	
Voice:	The tone and personality of the writing fits the personality of your narrator, without resorting to stereotyping or cliché. You choose words and structure your sentences in a manner fitting Paul Revere, given the time period and his personality. If you include dialogue, the tone of each character differs appropriately.	20	
Sentence Fluency:	All sentences sound natural and flow smoothly from one to the next. Each sentence is clear and well constructed. You vary your sentence beginnings and the lengths of your sentences.	20	
Word Choice:	You use vivid words and phrases. You avoid repetition or use repetition for deliberate effect. You use words accurately, and your word choices seem natural and not forced or awkward. The words you choose fit Paul Revere's voice and the time period.	20	
Conventions:	You make no errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, or capitalization that might distract the readers from the content. If you "break the rules" of convention, you do so deliberately and for effect.	10	
TOTAL:		110	
Average (if student and teacher scores are within 10%):			

COMMENTS: