

Virginia State Bar Law in Society Award 2017 Scoring Grid

PLEASE RATE EACH COMPONENT ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5						Entry #: <u>0</u>
COMPONENT	5 – EXCELLENT	4 – VERY GOOD	3 – GOOD	2 – FAIR	1 – POOR	
Does the essay demonstrate proper essay structure?	Considerations: a) Does the essay contain an introduction, a body, and a conclusion? b) Does the introduction contain: 1) a general discussion of the topic? 2) A coherent thesis statement setting forth the position/opinion the student decided to take with regard to the essay topic? 3) A brief statement introducing the arguments to come? c) Does the body of the essay present arguments that support the thesis, with arguments placed in logical order - strongest first - and with illustrative examples?					Score <u>0</u>
Does the essay address the questions the student is asked to consider in the hypothetical?	Has the student made it clear that he/she has read the hypothetical carefully, and has tried to answer the most important questions the hypothetical raises?					Score <u>0</u>
Does the essay demonstrate writing skills including good grammar, proper spelling, correct punctuation, and good paragraph and sentence construction?	a) Are paragraphs well organized and tightly constructed or do they tend to run on? b) Do paragraphs begin with strong lead sentences that describe what the paragraph will be about? Do sentences vary in length? Does the student vary sentence beginnings or do they all start subject first? c) Does the student use effective transitions within paragraphs or from paragraph to paragraph? d) Does the student write clearly and effectively? Does the student avoid using the passive voice? Does the student exercise good word choice? e) Do subjects and verbs agree? Do pronouns and antecedents agree? f) Is the student's writing concise or is it wordy? Does the student repeat words, phrases, or thoughts?					Score <u>0</u>
Is the student's argument persuasive and convincing?	a) Has the student presented three or four reasons in support of the stated position? Are the reasons the student has chosen among the best and strongest? b) Has the student introduced relevant and convincing examples in support of each reason? Does the student draw these examples from a variety of sources such as definitions, tradition/custom, history, comparisons/contrasts, common values, or a discussion of what may or may not happen in the event his or her opinion is not acted upon? c) Does the student introduce one or two counterarguments (other points of view) and then go on to distinguish or successfully refute?					Score <u>0</u>
Does the essay demonstrate good analytical/abstract thinking?	a) Are the student's arguments strong and clear or weak and illogical? b) Does the student's argument move in a logical flow? c) Does the student demonstrate creative thinking? Does the student engage in the abstract process of logic, analysis, and deduction? d) Does the student use comparisons, analogies and/or metaphors to enhance the argument? e) In the essay's closing, does the student draw larger conclusions from the topic at hand or frame the essay topic within a larger context?					Score <u>0</u>
Overall quality	Your overall impression of the essay quality.					Score

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		<u>0</u>
Total Score <i>(Hit TAB and the score will automatically calculate)</i>		TOTAL SCORE 0

Judge: /s/ _____
(please type name above)

Date: _____