

CREATIVE NON-FICTION JUDGING RUBRIC

Entry # _____

Judge # _____

	Excellent (4 points)	Good (3 points)	Fair (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Judge's Score
Writing is Powerful	Story is vivid, well-paced and highly engaging. Writing “shows” and provides a complete, compelling reading experience.	Writing is adequate for a vivid, well-paced, and engaging story. It “shows” but may have shifting POV or verb tenses.	Writing “tells” throughout without “showing.”	Writing is superficial, disjointed, or otherwise lacks the ability to engage the reader.	
Story Structure	Fact-based story and plot flow seamlessly through linear or nonlinear structure. May include flashbacks, braiding, vignettes, or jumps in time while maintaining thematic thread.	Fact-based story flows, but lack of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, or resolution weaken it and result in a less than fully satisfying narrative.	Story has too many flaws in exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and/or resolution to take the reader on an impactful journey.	Numerous flaws in exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and/or resolution create an unsatisfying narrative.	
Conflict	Conflict is integrated smoothly with plot and character’s evolution. Raises raises stakes to make a compelling story that engages emotions.	Conflict is depicted clearly but doesn’t make the stakes for characters high enough as story develops.	Conflict is either vague or not integral to the story’s plot and character motivations.	Conflict is minimal between characters or within characters.	
Scene Development	Writing incorporates all or most of the five senses and uses literary devises to show when and where the story takes place.	Writing incorporates some of the senses and may use literary devises to show when and where the story takes place.	“Scene” is described but the reader does not visualize surroundings or timeframe.	Writing does not provide a clear sense of when and where the story takes place.	
Grammar, Spelling Syntax & Punctuation	Story has 0-1 errors per page.	Story has 2-3 errors per page.	Story has 4-5 errors per page.	Story has 6 or more errors per page.	

Recommend for inclusion in Anthology? Yes No

Score (out of 20 points) _____

Judge’s Comments: