Lancaster University Ghana

SCHOLARS CUP CHALLENGE 2025

Essay & Interschool Debate Competition 2025

Theme: The Digital Pulse

THE SCHOLARS CUP CHALLENGE MARKING RUBRIC ESSAY COMPETITION

Plagiarism above 10% will automatically result in an overall mark of zero

Criteria	Poor	Good	Excellent	Weight
Understanding of the Theme	Misinterprets the topic or lacks focus.	Demonstrates partial understanding and addresses the theme moderately.	Clearly understands and thoughtfully explores the topic.	20%
Originality & Creativity	Unoriginal content, predictable ideas, clichés.	Some unique insights or creative structure.	Exceptionally original ideas and approach; demonstrates fresh thinking.	20%
Structure & Coherence	Lacks clear structure; ideas are disorganized.	The essay has a basic structure (intro, body, conclusion) with some flow.	Logical, cohesive flow; strong transitions and clear development.	15%
Critical Thinking & Argument Development	Arguments are weak, shallow, or missing.	Some relevant arguments: limited depth or evidence.	Persuasive, well-developed arguments supported by strong reasoning and evidence.	20%
Grammar, Language & Style	Frequent errors: poor vocabulary, unclear expression.	Few language or grammar errors; effective style.	Polished language, precise grammar, engaging tone, and vocabulary.	15%
Relevance & Impact	Content lacks relevance to real-world issues or audience.	Moderately relevant; some attempt to connect with impact.	Highly relevant with strong social, cultural, or educational relevance and impact.	10%

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LUG Inter High School Essay and Debate Competition
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Criteria	Poor	Good	Excellent	Weight
Opening Statement	Unclear or off-topic; fails to introduce key ideas.	Introduces position with some clarity and structure.	Grabs attention; clearly outlines team's stance and key arguments.	10%
Main Arguments (per speaker)	Weak, underdeveloped, or irrelevant points.	Reasonable points with some evidence and logic.	Strong, persuasive arguments backed by facts, logic, and examples.	25%
Rebuttal & Counterargument	Ignores opposing points or weak responses.	Acknowledges opponent's views; some counterpoints made.	Effectively refutes opposing views with logic, evidence, and clarity.	20%
Team Coordination & Flow	Poor transitions: speakers repeat or contradict each other.	Basic coordination; fair transitions between speakers.	Seamless flow: speakers build on each other's points strategically.	10%
Critical Thinking & Originality	Lacks analytical depth; no fresh perspective.	Some analytical insight or creativity is shown.	Demonstrates deep analysis, creative angles, and confident reasoning.	15%
Delivery & Presentation	Mumbles, reads monotonously, or appears unsure.	Adequate voice projection, eye contact, and posture.	Confident, articulate, engaging, and persuasive delivery.	**15%**
Delivery & Presentation	Significantly over or under the time limit.	Mostly within time but slightly mismanaged.	Uses time effectively, covers all points within limit.	5%