**2020 Game Changer Conference – Essay Writing Competition for Students**

**Essay Rubric:**

**“Making Good Decisions” is a Game Changer: Why is this a vital ingredient to your success at home, school, and in the community? Provide examples of how making good decisions allow you to achieve ultimate success as a game changer in all three areas.**

**Participants:**

1. **Please review the rubric prior to finalizing and submitting your essay to ensure you fully address the characteristic criteria below.**
2. **A small panel will utilize the rubric to review, evaluate, and score/rate your essay to determine how well you met the characteristic criteria.**
3. **Good luck and happy writing.**

| Characteristic/Criteria | Excellent (Score 9-10) | Good (Score 7-8) | Fair (Score 4-6) | Fair (Score 1-3) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Introduction | Introduction refers specifically to and directly addresses the theme. | Introduction refers to and addresses the theme. | Introduction makes some reference to and attempts to address the theme. | Introduction makes little reference to and poorly addresses the theme. |
| Body Paragraphs (Topic Sentences addresses the idea of the paragraph, usually at the beginning) | Body paragraphs contain clear topic sentences and are exceptional well-organized. | Body paragraphs have topic sentences and are fairly organized | Body paragraphs attempt to address the topic and are fairly organized. | Body paragraphs poorly address the topic and are not organized. |
| Examples (Supportive Information) | Examples are specific, sufficient, and significant; they are clearly explained and connected directly to the theme. | Examples are specific, sufficient, and reasonably well-explained and support the theme. | Examples are fair and/or insufficient and provide some support to the theme. | Examples are unclear and insufficient and provide little support to the theme. |
| Conclusion | Conclusion clearly restates the theme, reinforces the major points and makes a broader statement about the theme. | Conclusion sums up the writer’s points/theme and reinforces it well. | Conclusion does not fully sum up or reinforce the writer’s points/theme. | Conclusion poorly sums up the writer’s points/theme with little reinforcement. |
| Conventions (Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation, and word count) | Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are accurate and nearly perfect, and word count is **300 or more.** | Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are mostly accurate with few errors, and word count is **less than 300 but more than 250.** | Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are fair with some obvious errors, and word count is **less than 250 but more 200.** | Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are poor with frequent errors, and word count is **less than 200.** |
| Word Choice/Language | Language is precise and well-chosen; sentences are rich and varied | Language is well-chosen; sentences are varied | Language is fair; some sentence variety | Language is poor; sentence variety |