

**AFS Student Writing Contest Rubric**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Outstanding = 4</b>	<b>Very Good = 3</b>	<b>Fair = 2</b>	<b>Marginal = 1</b>	<b>Unacceptable = 0</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<b>Objective</b> The objective of the paper is clearly articulated. The research question is stated or clearly implicit.						10%
<b>Significance</b> The writer makes a clear and compelling case for the significance of the topic to the scientific community and general public.						10%
<b>Content</b> Balanced presentation of relevant and legitimate information and/or data that clearly supports the objective and shows a thoughtful, in-depth analysis of a significant topic. Reader gains important insights.						20%
<b>Organization</b> The ideas are arranged logically to support the purpose or argument. They flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other. The reader can follow the line of reasoning.						20%
<b>Tone and Feel</b> The writing is compelling. It hooks the reader and sustains interest throughout. The tone is professional and appropriate for a popular article.						10%
<b>Target Audience</b> The writing clearly demonstrates an awareness of the target audience (general public) that is maintained throughout.						10%
<b>Grammar, Spelling, Mechanics</b> Sentences are well-phrased and varied in length and structure. They flow smoothly from one to another. Word choice is consistently precise and accurate. No jargon used. The writing is free or almost free of errors.						20%