

Rubric for Poetry Society of Texas

RUBRIC

PURPOSE and USE OF RUBRIC A rubric is designed to assist the judge in an objective evaluation of writing components. It is not fixed but is a variable guideline that can be used by both the judge and the writer. While it should clarify what is valued in the writing, it should not supersede the judge's own determinations.

EMPLOYMENT OF RUBRIC The contest chair shall send to the judge a copy of the rubric in print or electronically with each batch of poems. The points suggested in each category are ideal maximums. The rubric shall be available to writers on websites and newsletters as a potential writing tool.

<u>POINTS</u>	<u>CRITERIA</u>
20	<u>IMAGERY and IMAGINATIVE LANGUAGE</u> Do figures of speech enhance the poem? Are the images original? Is the progression from one image to another logical within the context of the poem? Do the tropes work together toward a sense of unity? Do they carry but not overwhelm the poem?
10	<u>SUITABILITY of SUBJECT and its depiction in the poem</u> Is the poem appropriate in a particular contest and for a specific audience?
10	<u>MEANING</u> Is the poem's central idea expressed clearly enough that it can be paraphrased? Or does its elusiveness nevertheless satisfy? Is that effect unified and identifiable? Does the poem avoid didacticism or fustiness?
10	<u>DEVELOPMENT of THEME</u> Does the poem express the attitude of the poem's speaker (or the author's) toward the subject?

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- 20 TECHNICAL DETAIL
This includes effects such as assonance, consonance, and alliteration; absence of redundancy; economy of words. Is there a sense that rhyme and rhythm exist to enhance ideas rather than rule or distort ideas? It is assumed that the submitted poem is free of standard English errors.
- 20 OVERALL EFFECT
General appeal; creativity; sensibility; freedom from cliché.
- 10 APTNESS of TITLE
This criterion is listed last because it can be best evaluated when the entire poem is considered first. Does the title promote the idea or central image? Does the title go beyond merely repeating a line or words in the body of the poem, that is, does the title better the poem?
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- 100 A “perfect” score.