

YOUTH INSTITUTE ESSAY EVALUATION RUBRIC

Evaluation of the essays will be based on the guidelines found in *How to Write Your Research Paper* and the *Paper Format Requirements* on your state web page at www.worldfoodprize.org/youth. Participants are strongly encouraged to read those documents before they review the essay evaluation information. All submissions must be original material with any direct or paraphrased quotes attributed to the original author and documented in the bibliography.

The following rubric will be used by the judges to evaluate each essay:

1. Choose a country from the list provided to be the focus of your research

2 points - An appropriate country was selected

0 points - The country selected was not one listed in the directions

2. Define a “typical” subsistence farm family or poor urban family in your selected country.

5 points	3 points	1 point
Clear and thorough definition of a typical subsistence farm family or poor urban family in the chosen country. Definition covers a) family size and composition, diet, education and access to health care; b) farm size, crops grown, and agricultural practices or employment and wage, and where they typically purchase food and have access to private or community gardens; c) major barriers to improving agricultural productivity, employment and earning a living wage, and gaining access to food markets and adequate nutrition.	Satisfactory definition of a typical subsistence farm family or poor urban family in the chosen country. Less thorough coverage of a) family size and composition, diet, education and access to health care; b) farm size, crops grown, and agricultural practices or employment and wage, and where they typically purchase food and have access to private or community gardens; c) major barriers to improving agricultural productivity, employment and earning a living wage, and gaining access to food markets and adequate nutrition.	Unsatisfactory definition of a typical subsistence farm family or poor urban family in the chosen country. Incomplete or omitted coverage of a) family size and composition, diet, education and access to health care; b) farm size, crops grown, and agricultural practices or employment and wage, and where they typically purchase food and have access to private or community gardens; c) major barriers to improving agricultural productivity, employment and earning a living wage, and gaining access to food markets and adequate nutrition.

3. Select ONE of the key factors from the list provided as the focus of your research.

3 points	2 points	0 points
The factor was clearly identified and chosen from the list provided.	It was difficult to identify the factor but the paper was loosely focused on one or more factors in the list provided.	No factor was identified or a factor not on the list provided was the focus of the paper.



4. How does the factor you selected affect agricultural productivity, household income or food availability and quality in your chosen country?

- What role does the factor presently play in causing your family to not produce enough food, earn sufficient income to purchase food, or access adequate nutrition?
- What is the present status of this factor? How severe is the situation? Is the environment being degraded? Are women, rural or urban poor, or developing countries particularly disadvantaged? If so, how?
- Are the trends for this factor improving, worsening, staying the same? How are the trends for this factor measured? Do these measurements indicate the situation is changing? If so, how? Because of potential change, or no change, is the situation for your rural farm or urban family getting worse, improving or staying the same?
- How would improving or resolving this factor increase the amount or quality of food or income available to your family? Preserve the environment sustainably? Lead to economic development and poverty reduction? Benefit women, smallholder farmers or urban dwellers in your country of focus?

5 points	3 points	1 point
Clear, thoughtful, and creative discussion of how the selected factor affects agricultural productivity, household income or food availability and quality. Contains specific responses to the questions in Step 3-4 of “How to Write Your Research Paper.”	Less developed discussion of how the selected factor affects agricultural productivity, household income or food availability and quality. Contains generalized responses to some of the sub questions in Step 3-4 of “How to Write Your Research Paper.”	Unsatisfactory discussion that is noticeably lacking in development and creativity. Contains few or no meaningful responses to sub questions in Step 3-4 of “How to Write Your Research Paper.”

5. How will other major issues (climate change, population growth, water scarcity, urbanization, energy demand, pollution, etc.) affect your chosen factor and the wellbeing of your family and their community in the decades ahead?

5 points	3 points	1 point
Clear and focused explanation of how climate change, population growth, water scarcity, urbanization, energy demand, pollution etc. will affect the selected factor and the wellbeing of the typical family and their community in the future.	Less focused explanation of how climate change, population growth, water scarcity, urbanization energy demand, pollution etc. will affect the selected factor and the wellbeing of the typical family and their community in the future.	Unfocused explanation of how climate change, population growth, water scarcity, urbanization, energy demand, pollution etc. will affect the selected factor and the wellbeing of the typical family and their community in the future.

6. Based on your research, give your recommendations on how to effectively address your selected factor to improve the food security of your rural or urban family in the country on which you have focused. What Millennium Development Goals and associated policies, technologies, practices or investments do you recommend to solve this situation by 2015? Describe one or more local projects in your focus country that could be scaled up successfully.

5 points	3 points	1 point
Creative and well-supported recommendations on how to effectively address the selected factor to improve the food security of the typical family by 2015.	Sensible recommendations with adequate support regarding how to effectively address the selected factor to improve the food security of the typical family by 2015.	Impractical or unsupported recommendations on how to effectively address the selected factor to improve the food security of the typical family by 2015.



7. Give your suggestion for the appropriate role of communities, the national government, corporations and other organizations in implementing your recommendations in your country. How should rural farm and urban families be involved as key players in implementing these recommendations?

5 points	3 points	1 point
Concise and specific suggestions regarding the role of communities, national government, corporations, and other organizations (UN, World Bank, etc.) in implementing your recommendations.	Generalized suggestions regarding the role of communities, national government, corporations, and other organizations (UN, World Bank, etc.) in implementing your recommendations.	No discernible suggestions regarding the role of communities, national government, corporations, and other organizations (UN, World Bank, etc.) in implementing your recommendations.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS AND WRITING QUALITY

5 points	3 points	1 point
Format requirements for paper identification and title, five or more primary or secondary sources referenced and Modern Language Association format are all met.	Paper includes an incomplete identification and title at top of essay, bibliography is present but contains fewer than five sources and/or uses a style different than Modern Language Association format.	Paper includes an incomplete identification or title at top of essay, does not include a bibliography.

5 points	3 points	1 point
Paper is in a MS Word (.doc) file with one-inch page margins, eleven-point Times New Roman font, single spaced font text with no indentation and double-space between paragraphs.	Paper deviates from the software, margin font or spacing requirements in up to two areas.	Paper deviates from the software, margin font or spacing requirements in more than two areas.

5 points	3 points	1 point
Excellent organization of all content, including coherent paragraphing and clear transitions. Paper is at least 4-5 pages in length (excluding bibliography) and includes an introduction and conclusion of at least one-half page each.	Satisfactory organization of most content; some paragraphs lacking unity or coherence; transitions spotty or not clear. Paper is only 3 pages in length; introduction <u>or</u> conclusion missing or of insufficient length.	Unsatisfactory organization of content, including lack of appropriate paragraph breaks and lack of transitions. Paper is less than 3 pages in length; introduction <u>and</u> conclusion missing or of insufficient length.

5 points	3 points	1 point
Prose that flows smoothly, uses highly appropriate vocabulary, and exhibits no serious errors in grammar and mechanics.	Prose that tends to move along in fits and starts, employs an adequate vocabulary, and exhibits a few significant errors in grammar and mechanics.	Prose that is choppy, employs a poor vocabulary, and exhibits many errors in grammar and mechanics.

