

2025 Scoring Guidelines for ABMF Past is Prologue Essay Contest (Expository Composition) For Judges: ID# _____

	Masterful (10-9 pts)	Skilled (8-7 points)	Proficient (6-5 points)	Developing (4-1)
FOCUS, PURPOSE, THESIS Weight: 20%	Engaging, thorough and full development of a clear thesis as appropriate to assignment purpose and all requirements, including discussion of topic and mandatory questions.	Competent and well-developed thesis represents sound and adequate understanding of assignment, including discussion of topic and mandatory questions.	Mostly adequate understanding with thesis that is effective and includes all requirements but may be vague or indirectly supported.	Underdeveloped focus and purpose; incomplete understanding of topic. Thesis may be stated but not developed. May be missing some requirements.
STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION Weight: 20%	Introduction provides essential details that provide context; organization is sequential; body paragraphs are well-developed, relevant, and appropriately divided; use of transitions between ideas is evident; unnecessary repetition is avoided. Conclusion is developed. Topic and mandatory questions are developed.	Competent organization includes introduction, body paragraph development and conclusion. Contains only relevant information. Some use of transitional words and ideas. Topic and mandatory questions are included.	Functional use of introduction, body, and conclusion. Some transitions included. Mostly relevant and sufficient information. Topic and mandatory questions are included.	Organization of ideas and paragraphs is generally present, but ideas may be not logically ordered. Repetition of ideas rather than progression. Introduction, body, and conclusion not effectively included. Topic/ mandatory questions may be missing.
IDEAS, SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT (EVIDENCE) Weight: 20%	Consistent and accurate historical evidence and analysis of ideas; ideas are relevant to thesis and purpose; main points are supported with valid and specific evidence. Citations are provided.	Historically accurate ideas supported sufficiently; support is sound, valid, relevant, and logical. Citations are provided.	Main points and ideas are present but not consistently accurate, developed, and supported. Citations are provided.	Insufficient, non-specific, inaccurate or irrelevant support for main ideas. Missing or incomplete citations.
ORIGINALITY: AUDIENCE, TONE, POINT OF VIEW, VOCABULARY, WORD CHOICE Weight: 20%	Originality is developed with the following: authoritative, humanitarian, or other appropriate tone; awareness of audience; appropriate point of view; exceptional and precise word choice.	Effective and accurate awareness of audience; tone and point-of-view are satisfactory, and strong use of vocabulary creates originality.	General but inconsistent awareness of audience; tone and point-of-view are attempted but not refined or consistent. General use of words. Attempt at originality.	Shows little awareness of audience; little presence of meaningful tone; point-of-view not indicated. Word choice is ineffective. Little evidence of originality.
SENTENCE STRUCTURE & MECHANICS Weight: 15%	Sentence structure is effective and rich with well-chosen variety of sentence styles and lengths. Virtually free of errors in spelling, punctuation, verb tense, usage, subject/verb agreement, and other grammatical conventions.	Effective and varied use of sentences. Contains only occasional errors in punctuation, spelling, and other grammatical conventions.	Appropriate use of sentences and few errors in structure. Contains many errors in grammatical conventions which may interfere with meaning.	Reliance on simple sentence structures; may have fragments or run-on sentences. Contains many errors in grammatical conventions which may interfere with meaning.
PRESENTATION Weight: 5%	All Header information is properly included on every page: Unique ID #, NO NAME; Title; Date of essay; Word Count, Page Number. 1- inch margins, double spaced, 12-pt Times Roman typeface	Missing one component of correct Header and essay formatting.	Missing 2 or 3 components of correct Header and essay formatting.	Essays must be submitted with the unique id# only. Essays submitted with a name will be disqualified and not entered into the judging pool.
SCORE				