

Regional Judging: Grades 6–8 Student Rubric

Purpose: To help students write thoughtful, well-structured stories that show insight about agriculture.

Category	1 – Needs Work	2 – Developing	3 – Strong	Score
Connection & Insight	Weak or inaccurate agricultural link.	Some relevant ideas but limited depth.	Strong, accurate agricultural theme that shows understanding or reflection.	
Story Development	Main idea unclear; few supporting details.	Some development; may wander or lack focus.	Clear, engaging idea supported with meaningful details.	
Organization & Flow	Lacks structure; hard to follow.	Some logical order but transitions uneven.	Smooth, logical flow with clear beginning, middle, and end.	
Creativity & Voice	Flat or unoriginal.	Some creativity or emotion.	Distinct, original, and engaging writing voice.	
Clarity & Conventions	Many errors; confusing.	Some errors but understandable.	Clear, polished, and easy to read.	

Total: /15 points

Tip: Judges look for writing that teaches or inspires readers about agriculture and how it impacts our environment, health, or communities.