Gulf Coast Writers Association - Nonfiction Judging Criteria

Control No.	Title of Entry

Step One - Weed out entries

At the Judges discretion does the entry meet the general guidelines including: word count, complete story, no gratuitous violence or erotica, submission rules followed: times new roman, font 12, double spaced, pages numbered, title on each page.

Score 1 equals very poor 10 equals excellent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Step Two

Introduction

Has the author established a clear purpose (to inform, to entertain, to persuade)? Has the author established the intended audience? Is the author's theme or message clear to the reader? Does the writer capture the reader's attention?

Score 1 equals very poor 10 equals excellent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Body

Is the writer's message carried throughout the manuscript? Is the writer's theme or message developed and supported with specific details and/or examples? Are details factually accurate?

Score 1 equals very poor 10 equals excellent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Conclusion

Does the author summarize the importance of his/her theme or message without simply repeating content from the introduction? Does the author tie the end of the work back to the beginning? Are footnotes or endnotes properly cited?

Score 1 equals very poor 10 equals excellent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Writing Style

Does the quality of the author's prose (syntax, word choice, etc.) enhance the story? Do specific, definite, concrete, and particular details appeal to your senses and hold your attention? Does the rhythm of the prose enhance the meaning? Does the author show not tell details? Is the writing in active rather than passive voice? Are there errors in spelling, grammar, paragraphing, and punctuation? Are words used incorrectly?

Score 1 equals very poor 10 equals excellent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Impact

Does the piece engage your emotions? Do you come to care about the theme or message and about the outcome of the piece?

Score 1 equals very poor 10 equals excellent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Sub-totals

Total Score	