

## Salem Poet Laureate Applicant Rubric

<b>FORM AND FORMAL ELEMENTS:</b>				
<p><b>4.</b> The form of the poem is integral to its meaning. The poem's craft demonstrates care and attention. If the form is traditional, the poem demonstrates knowledge of the form. If the form is open, lines and movement interact in stirring ways with meaning. The poem demonstrates skill in execution at every point</p>	<p><b>3.</b> The form of the poem is integral to its meaning. The poem's craft demonstrates care and attention. If the form is traditional, the poem demonstrates knowledge of the form. If the form is open, lines and movement interact in stirring ways with meaning. The poem demonstrates skill in execution at every point.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> The form of the poem should be more skillfully handled. The poem operates through predictable wording, rhyming, or clichés. If the form is traditional, the poem relies on contortions of language to achieve meter or other effects. If the form is open, there is little evidence that the shape of the poem is more than idiosyncratic choices.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> The form of the poem is weak and does not interact with other levels of meaning. If the form is traditional, it is carried out badly. If the form is open, the poem seems haphazard and random.</p>	<p><b>0.</b> The poem does not meet the requirements of the Committee or cannot be reviewed for a reason unanimously agreed to by the Jury. There is no further scoring.</p>
<b>IMPACT:</b>				
<p><b>4.</b> The poem captivates and inspires the reader. It has something vital to say about the human condition and requires thought beyond the last word of the poem.</p>	<p><b>3.</b> The poem attracts the reader's attention. Some images or turns of phrase remain with the reader.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> The poem is adequate.</p>	<p><b>1..</b> The poem lacks inspiration, is bland, predictable, banal, and forgettable.</p>	<p><b>0.</b> The poem fails to inspire or is too confusing in its content to be juried.</p>
<b>POETIC LANGUAGE and ELEMENTS:</b>				
<p><b>4.</b> The language is vibrant, descriptive, and exact. Sensory details and figurative language create vivid images that contribute significantly to the meaning of the poem. Sound devices (such as rhyme, alliteration, and onomatopoeia) used effectively and contribute to the meaning of the poem.</p>	<p><b>3</b> Sensory details, figurative language, and sound devices (such as rhyme, alliteration, and onomatopoeia) contribute to the meaning of the poem. Most word choices are precise.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Sensory details, figurative language, and sound devices (such as rhyme, alliteration, and onomatopoeia) are overused, underused, or inappropriate to the topic. When used, they fail to add to the meaning of the poem. Word choices may be vague, repetitive, or imprecise</p>	<p><b>1.</b> There is confusing or inappropriate use of sensory details, figurative language, and/or sound devices (such as rhyme, alliteration, onomatopoeia). Words are misused or unclear.</p>	<p><b>0.</b> There is no use of sensory details, figurative language, or sound devices.</p>

**GRAMMAR, USAGE, MECHANICS, and SPELLING**

<p><b>4.</b> Word choice serves the poem; it is fresh and unexpected but fitting. Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling are either standard, or they serve a purpose such as to create voice (as with dialect) or to introduce productive ambiguity.</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Word choice is precise. There are some errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and/or spelling, but none of these are vital to the poem overall and easily understood as errata.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Word choices tend to be vague, repetitive, or imprecise. Errors in mechanics, grammar, usage, and spelling make the poem difficult to understand.</p>	<p><b>1.</b> The form of the poem is weak and does not interact with other levels of meaning. If the form is traditional, it is carried out badly. If the form is open, the poem seems haphazard and random.</p>	<p><b>0.</b> The poem consistently defeats itself because of errors in grammar, mechanics, usage, and spelling. For example, the poem may weaken its images or become unintentionally funny.</p>
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**Demonstrated Significant Ties To The City Of Salem In Their Personal Statement**

<p><b>4. Excellent</b> The applicant's personal statement convincingly illustrates a deep and meaningful connection to the City of Salem. They provide specific and compelling examples of how their personal and professional experiences are closely tied to Salem, showcasing a profound understanding and appreciation for the community</p>	<p><b>3. Good</b> The applicant's personal statement demonstrates a solid connection to the City of Salem. They offer clear examples of their ties to the city, but there might be areas where more specificity or depth could enhance their portrayal of the connection.</p>	<p><b>2. Fair</b> While the applicant's personal statement acknowledges ties to Salem, the connection may be somewhat vague or general. More specific details about their experiences within the city would strengthen this aspect of their application</p>	<p><b>1. Poor</b> The applicant's personal statement provides minimal evidence of any significant ties to the city of Salem.</p>	<p><b>0. Did not Address</b> The applicant's personal statement does not touch upon their ties to the City of Salem. This absence makes it difficult to evaluate their connection to the community.</p>
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