



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY

PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWS PROGRAM - AWARDS GRADING

Student Name: _____ School: _____

Topic of Paper: _____

Thank you for serving as an Awards Panelist! Please fill out a sheet for each of the enclosed papers. Scored papers are due back by March 5th in the FedEx packaging attached.

A total of 6 points are possible for each section. To receive full marks, the following criteria must be observed.

_____ **Analysis: 6 points possible**

- Interesting argument, demonstrates highly sophisticated and well-expressed thought process.
- Central thesis is clearly communicated and worth developing, but limited enough to be manageable.
- Paper recognizes the complexity of its thesis; may acknowledge its contradictions, qualifications, or limits and follow out their logical implications.
- Observes and identifies causality and the potential consequences/implications subject has on the Chief Executive.

_____ **Organization and Coherence: 6 points possible**

- Employs a logical structure appropriate to paper's subject, purpose, audience, thesis and disciplinary field.
- Sophisticated transitional sentences guide the reader through the chain of reasoning or progression of ideas.
- Within the 15-page limit, writer coherently and succinctly explores his/her chosen subject.

_____ **Originality: 6 points possible**

- Tackles a sophisticated issue relevant to the Presidency - for example, the history of the office or personalities, a contemporary policy issue (international, domestic, social, etc.), or an examination of decision-making.
- Presents information with a new approach and does not simply reiterate accepted theories and interpretations.

_____ **Research: 6 points possible**

- Uses evidence appropriately and effectively, providing sufficient evidence and explanation to convince.
- Understands and critically evaluates sources, both primary and secondary.
- Comments on the possible biases, the strong points and potential inaccuracies present in sources used.
- Draws on a sufficient number and variety of sources to support argument.

_____ **Style and Mechanics: 6 points possible**

- Sentences are varied, yet clearly structured and carefully focused, not long and rambling.
- Elaborations on specific points appear as properly documented footnotes.
- Citations are parenthetical, with a well-organized references page at the conclusion of the paper.
- Paper is almost entirely free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.

Total Score for Paper: _____ 30 points possible

Comments: _____

PLEASE SEE REVERSE TO NOMINATE THIS PAPER FOR THE MARRON OR MOFFETT AWARD.

*Modeled after a grading rubric used by the UC Davis English Department Composition program.
Many thanks to Jacqueline Winokur, Endicott College, for her assistance*

AWARDS CRITERIA:

The James R. Moffett Award for the *Most Original Paper on the Modern Presidency*

Papers in consideration for the Moffett Award represent a superior standard of scholarship and an ability to analyze events pertaining to the Presidency in an original manner. They begin with a well-developed thesis that presents a compelling policy recommendation or analysis of the Presidency, utilizing a well-grounded argument with an original interpretation. This is followed by a body of work that not only supports this thesis, but also reflects a deeper understanding of the material beyond the simple facts. Included here should be the newest available information or in the case of a historical paper, a unique perspective on events.

The Donald B. Marron Award for the *Best Historical Analysis of the Presidency*

Papers in consideration for the Marron Award represent superior scholarship, and examine historical subject matter such as a key moment in political or social history important to the Presidency. In the thesis, the author will have laid out a new and unique interpretation of the historical events to be covered. The body of the work should reflect extensive and/or original research into the subject matter as well as mentioning possible conflicting opinions that arise concerning their arguments.

AWARDS RECOMMENDATION

This paper is a candidate for the:

The Donald B. Marron Award for the *Best Historical Analysis of the Presidency*

Comments: _____

The James R. Moffett Award for the *Most Original Paper on the Modern Presidency*

Comments: _____

