

First Impressions Contest Score Sheet

Title _____ Entry #: _____

Category: _____

Judge #: _____

Scoring Definitions:

Outstanding = Writer has mastered the concept/craft element. 5 (No Revisions needed)

Excellent = Writer's understanding of the concept/craft element is clearly discernable. 4 (Light Revisions recommended on an otherwise solid entry)

Average = Writing indicates a strong understanding of the concept/craft element. 3 (Revisions needed before sending out)

Needs Work = Writing displays need for further study/understanding on the concept/craft elements. 2 (Revisions are needed and a recommend to work with a critique group)

Roll up your sleeves = Writing indicates a need to revisit the concept/craft element. Writing is a craft and process and this is part of the growth. 1 (Significant study and thorough revisions recommended.)

Scoring:

OPENING: **Score:** _____

A start in the correct place with an interesting hook and a good introduction of character(s) and the inciting incident is present.

Comments:

HEROINE:

Score: _____

Well developed. If not yet introduced, do you feel the exclusion detracted from the beginning of the story?

Comments:

HERO:

Score: _____

Well developed. If not yet introduced, do you feel the exclusion detracted from the beginning of the story?

Comments:

SECONDARY CHARACTERS:

Score: _____

Necessary, non-intrusive. If not yet introduced, do you feel the exclusion detracted from the beginning of the story?

Comments:

PLOT LINE:

Score: _____

Skillfully developed with breadth and/or subject matter applicable for genre.

Comments:

PACING:

Score: _____

Is pacing too fast, too slow? Is it appropriate to the scene?

Comments:

POINT OF VIEW:

Score: _____

Proper use of point of view, changes are well-done and relevant, POV didn't bounce between characters excessively or inappropriately.

Comments:

RELATIONSHIP: **Score:** _____

If hero and heroine have not yet met, do you feel the exclusion detracted from the beginning of the story?

Comments:

SETTING: **Score:** _____

Reader can see and feel it; sets the mood

Comments:

DIALOGUE: **Score:** _____

Natural, believable, and well balanced with narrative. Note author's use of tags, beats, and word usage- is it appropriate for the character/time period, etc.?

Comments:

GMC: **Score:** _____

Is the potential for conflict (internal and external) established and strong enough to support story of projected manuscript length? Motivation and Goals apparent but not contrived for the contest.

Comments:

