

**RATINGS FEEDBACK – WILLIAM WRITER
THE WRITING CHALLENGE TOPIC – MY CHALLENGE ENTRY**

OVERALL:

The new judging system is a little different to that of the old. Apart from the obvious difference that we are now using professional editors for this role, the judges now work more in collaboration, so the ratings you will see in this report are combined from the start. In other words, there is no breakdown of individual judges' ratings.

We also can only provide the ranking for the level of entry, not the ranking overall, unless the entry makes it into the highest rankings overall.

My Challenge Entry ranked 20th in Level 3 out of 31 entries for that level.

The judges quite liked the strong message of your entry, and the little dashes of humor here and there, but they felt it was not particularly fresh or unique. Quite a lot of people that week, and in the past, have submitted similar entries, and although you obviously wrote straight from the heart, it was not an overly creative angle.

If mention is made of lowest or highest ratings in the following feedback, it is specifically to do with your entry (not as compared to any other entry that week).

General Guide to Rating Descriptions (as used in feedback):

Poor:	Rated at the lowest end of the scale and was considered exceptionally weak.
Below Average:	Rated below the middle of the field of entries and was considered weak. This usually means an entry was rated between 2 and 2.4.
Average:	Rated right in the middle of the scale, and considered average. Not particularly strong. This usually means an entry was rated between 2.5 and 2.9.
Above Average:	Rated just above the middle of the field of entries. Although not outstanding, it was considered a little better than average. This usually means the entry received a rating between 3 and 3.4.
Good:	Basically, what it says. This usually means the entry received a rating between 3.5 to 3.9.
Very Good:	The entry had a strong rating, usually between about 4 to 4.5.
Excellent:	The entry had a rating up to about 4.9.
PERFECT:	The entry rated 5 for a category and was considered outstanding.

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CRITERIA 1: HOW WELL DID THIS ENTRY FIT THE TOPIC?

Not surprisingly, the judges rated *My Challenge Entry* as **PERFECT for topic**. Getting the topic exactly right isn't always as easy as it may appear, but you nailed it. Your entry revolved entirely around the "Writing Challenge" aspect, but you did it in a natural way that didn't feel forced. Well done.

CRITERIA 2: HOW CREATIVE, UNIQUE AND FRESH WAS THIS ENTRY (AND HOW MEMORABLE)?

The ratings took a bit of a dip when it came to this category. As mentioned before, the judges appreciated the enthusiasm and overall crafting of your entry, but were disappointed that it wasn't from a fresher angle. You had a good message, but perhaps it may have worked better if you had used a specific instance when the Writing Challenge was a real challenge for you. That would have made your entry unique (as far as your own experience), and that would have lifted it from being a fairly general message regarding the Writing Challenge, to one that was a bit more creative. As it is, *My Challenge Entry* focused too much on information that the readers already would have known--even if communicated very well.

Overall, the judges rated your entry as **AVERAGE for creativity, uniqueness, freshness and memorability**.

CRITERIA 3: HOW WELL CRAFTED WAS THIS ENTRY (OVERALL CRAFTING OF THE WRITING, AS WELL AS THE GRAMMAR AND PREDICTABILITY)?

Where creativity dipped, the rating for this category rose.

On the negative side, the judges felt your entry was a little predictable, and they were fairly certain how it would end right from the start. So no real surprises there, although they did enjoy the ending.

However, the judges were completely in agreement that you wrote this piece with style, humor, and soul. In some places, the wording was crafted quite beautifully, which balanced well with the more light-hearted sections.

Your entry did get a little muddy around the middle, where you briefly jumped to a paragraph about your childhood. If you had connected that childhood section to your developing passion for writing, it would have worked, and I suspect that's what you meant to do. Unfortunately, that intention didn't communicate all that clearly. Even so, that was a fairly minor glitch in what was otherwise a very pleasant piece of writing.

Overall, the judges rated your entry as **GOOD for crafting**.

CRITERIA 4: DID THE ENTRY START WELL?

Another little dip in the ratings here because you started with a dictionary definition of the word "challenge." Dictionary definitions might be great for a school essay, but they are one of the worst ways to start a piece of creative writing. Your entry went on to very clearly illustrate the meaning of challenge, so not only was the definition not a great start, it was also completely unnecessary.

Once we got past the dictionary definition, *My Writing Challenge* improved dramatically. The hook in your third paragraph was excellent, and that's really where you should have started. From that point, the reader would have been keen to know what happened next. We just have to hope that they stay reading long enough to be hooked.

Overall, the judges rated your entry as **AVERAGE for how well it started** (although right on the borderline between average and above average because of that excellent third paragraph).

CRITERIA 5: DID THE ENTRY COME TO A SATISFYING CONCLUSION?

As mentioned before, the judges did think the ending of *My Writing Challenge* was fairly predictable. This would have been a stronger rating if you had avoided signalling the ending in the second paragraph. What should have come as a pleasant surprise to the reader was anticipated from the start.

In spite of knowing how it was going to end, the judges did like the way you wrapped things up and actually enjoyed it, so that helped increase the rating for this category.

Overall, the judges rated your entry as **GOOD for satisfying conclusion**. They knew what was coming, but they still liked it.

CRITERIA 6: DID THIS ENTRY HAVE A CLEAR POINT OR MESSAGE?

Apart from that one little glitch where you went off message to talk briefly about your childhood, this entry was exceptionally clear for message. The reader would be left in no doubt as to your point.

Overall, the judges rated your entry as **EXCELLENT for clarity of message**.

CRITERIA 7: DID IT FLOW SMOOTHLY?

Again, this rating was impacted a little by the dictionary definition at the start and the detour paragraph about your childhood. Both disrupted the flow, particularly the childhood paragraph, but other than those two areas, you moved very smoothly from start to finish. A bit of reworking would make a difference to this rating.

Overall, the judges rated your entry as **GOOD for flow**.

CRITERIA 8: HOW PUBLISHABLE IS THIS ENTRY FOR ITS TARGET AUDIENCE?

With a bit of reworking to remove the dictionary definition at the start, and to connect the childhood paragraph to a growing passion for writing, this would be a more appealing piece for publication. If you also made it a little more personal and unique to your own experience, and less general, it would have quite good publishing potential. However, at the moment, that potential is a little lower.

Overall, the judges rated your entry as **ABOVE AVERAGE for publishing potential**.

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Category Rankings for *My Challenge Entry*

Highest Ranked Category -- Topic

2nd -- Clarity of Message

3rd -- Crafting

4th -- Flow

5th -- Satisfying Conclusion

6th -- Publishing Potential

7th -- Good Start

Lowest Ranked Category -- Creativity.

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Final Thoughts...

My Challenge Entry was an appealing entry that did reasonably well in the rankings. Overall, the judges rated it as **GOOD**.

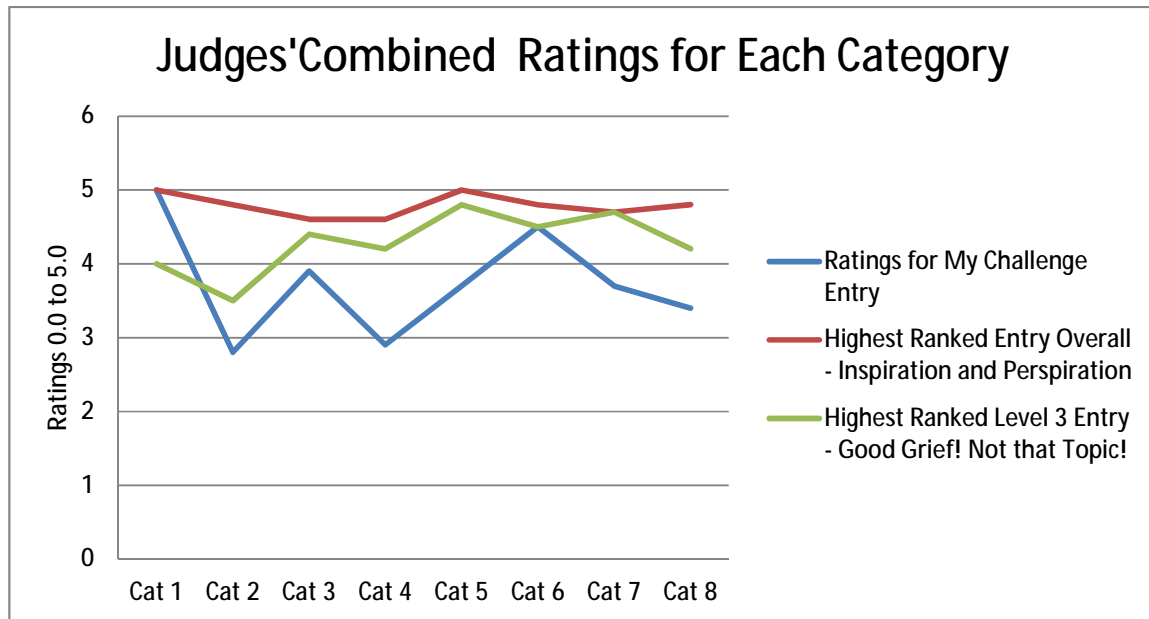
The judges definitely liked your entry, but it just needed that little bit of extra polish to push it up in the ranks.

The following graph gives an overview of how your entry compared to that of the highest ranked entry overall (*Inspiration and Perspiration* by Susie Jones in Level 4), as well as with that of the highest ranked entry in Level 3 (*Good Grief! Not that Topic!* by John Brown).

Please ignore the sixth line, as the rating scale is only from 0.0 to 5.0.

It's quite interesting to see that you were actually stronger for topic than was the Level 3 winner. With a stronger start, fresher angle and a little bit of extra work around the childhood paragraph, your entry could easily have made it into the highest rankings for Level 3, if not the top 5 for that level.

So be encouraged. Although the ratings take a few dips here and there, there is nothing that can't be fixed with a bit of extra work. The judges definitely agreed that you have a lot of potential as a writer, and they are looking forward to seeing more from you in the weeks ahead.



- Cat 1: Topic
- Cat 2: Creativity
- Cat 3: Crafting
- Cat 4: Good Start
- Cat 5: Satisfying Ending
- Cat 6: Clarity of Message
- Cat 7: Flow
- Cat 8: Publishing Potential