

PROBE BULLETIN CONTEST

BETY IBC

Year _____

District _____

Bulletin _____

Editor(s) _____

Chapter _____



**GRAMMAR & STYLE
Score Sheet**

	<u>District</u>	<u>International</u>
Points Possible	600	300
Page Weighted Score	—	—
Final Score	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES:

In this category, you are judging writing mechanics that affect communication.

Of the 2,000 points in the three categories, 600 points has been allocated to the Grammar & Style (GS) Category.

Each issue accounts for 300 of the 600 points.

Some bulletin content cannot be evaluated for usage, grammar, and style; therefore, the following features of a bulletin should be excluded:

- nameplate
- line art/illustrations
- photographs (but not captions)
- cartoons
- guest/membership/officer lists
- directory/addresses
- birthday/anniversary lists
- numerical data such as contest scores
- tags/musical notation
- advertisements
- mailer/address block
- excessive "white" space
- scanned/copied material pasted in without being reformatted or edited

JUDGING PROCEDURES:

1. Mark out all material to be excluded from judging. Estimate the amount of text left on each page (including headlines). For example, after crossing out photos and/line art, you estimate that approximately .6 of the remaining material is text. Continue this estimate for all pages, and then add up all the estimates to determine the number **pages able to be judged**. Evaluate the text according to the sub-categories of punctuation, grammar/usage, and style as outlined on the reverse tally sheet.
2. Enter in the appropriate blanks of the Scoring Summary below the total points deducted for each sub-category.
3. Complete the calculations in the Scoring Summary. ***In order to fairly measure editing skills, bulletin lengths are equalized by creating a page-weighted score. The Gross Errors Score is for informational purposes only. The Page Weighted Score is the number to be used to determine final score***
4. Prepare a positive critique, noting each bulletin's strengths as well as weaknesses. Refer the editor to the appropriate sections of the ***PROBE Style Manual*** <www.harmonize.com/probe/default.htm>.

SCORING SUMMARY

	<u>Issue #1</u>	<u>Issue #2</u>	<u>Totals</u>
1 — Punctuation points deducted	_____	_____	_____
2 — Grammar points deducted	_____	_____	_____
3 — Style point deducted	_____	_____	_____
4 — TOTALS	_____	_____	_____
5 — Estimated # pages to be judged	_____	_____	_____
6 — Average # errors per page	_____	_____	_____

AVERAGE ERRORS SCORE

Divide total deductions (4) by estimated pages (5).
Subtract the dividend (6) from 600 for two issues or from 300 for a single issue.

Judge _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

Signature _____

Tally of Errors

Issue #1

Issue #2

Punctuation Feature — *Non-word markings used to enhance readability. Deduct one (1) point for each occurrence up to a maximum of eight (8) for each feature.*

_____	_____	P1 — misuse/omission of capital letters
_____	_____	P2 — misuse/omission of commas
_____	_____	P3 — misuse/omission of terminal punctuation/abbreviations/"screamers"
_____	_____	P4 — misuse of apostrophes in possessives/contractions
_____	_____	P5 — misuse of quotation marks
_____	_____	P6 — incorrect punctuation with quotation marks
_____	_____	P7 — misuse/omission of colons, semicolons, parentheses, dashes
_____	_____	P8 — misuse of ellipses
_____	_____	P9 — incorrect punctuation of titles
_____	_____	P10 — misuse/omission of hyphenation
_____	_____	P11 — use of graphic symbols (e.g., &, %, #, @, w/); clipped words (e.g., Xmas, q'tet, b'shop,); abbreviations (a.m./p.m., CA vs Calif.)
_____	_____	Subtotal (transfer to appropriate location in Scoring Summary)

Grammar/Usage — *Basic rules, principles, and practices of composing standard English sentences, word forms, and other conventions. Deduct two (2) points for each occurrence up to a maximum of eight occurrences of starred (*) features.*

_____	_____	G1 — Misspelled/mistyped words; omitted words; proofreading
_____	_____	G2 — Incorrect word forms (there/their; than/then, etc.)
_____	_____	G3 — Sentence fragment
_____	_____	G4 — Run-on/fused sentence
_____	_____	G5 — Subject-verb agreement
_____	_____	G6 — Pronoun-antecedent agreement
_____	_____	G7 — Pronoun forms (incorrect case, voice)
_____	_____	G8 — Shifts in number, voice, tense
_____	_____	G9 — Modifiers (comparative forms, dangling, misplaced)
_____	_____	G10 — Incorrect verb tense
_____	_____	G11 — Faulty parallelism
_____	_____	*G12* — Incorrect writing of numbers and numerals
_____	_____	*G13* — Incorrect writing of dates
_____	_____	Subtotal x 2 (transfer to appropriate location in scoring summary)

Style — *Method of expression in clear idiomatic language and avoidance of graphic gimmickry. Deduct five (5) points for each occurrence.*

_____	_____	S1 — Using clichés, trite phrases, inappropriate slang
_____	_____	S2 — Unnecessary passive voice construction
_____	_____	S3 — Imprecise language, jargon/argot
_____	_____	S4 — Lack of variety in sentence length and type
_____	_____	S5 — Wordiness; redundancy
_____	_____	S6 — Awkward, unclear phrasing
_____	_____	S7 — Paragraphing (either too short or too long; in dialogue)
_____	_____	S8 — Lack of unity and coherence
_____	_____	S9 — Awkwardly phrased titles
_____	_____	Subtotal x 3 (transfer to appropriate location in scoring summary)