

Entry Code _____

Judge Code _____

Example of Contest score sheet #2

Manuscript Title: _____

Targeted Line: _____

Complete Manuscript Word Count: _____

Judging Guidelines: 9-10 = Ready for an editor's desk
 7-8 = Minor revisions needed
 5-6 = Shows promise, but more revisions needed
 3-4 = Extensive revisions necessary
 1-2 = Writer should review this concept before revising

Note to Judges: You are encouraged to write comments directly on the manuscript, as well as additional comments on this score sheet. The text fields below will expand to allow you unlimited space to type your comments. Only the category coordinator will score the presentation section (1a). Also, only use whole numbers – no partial points.

Judging Element	Description	Score	
1a. Presentation	Formatted according to industry standards and contest requirement <i>Coordinator's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-5:	
1b. Mechanics	Grammar, spelling, and punctuation meet industry standards <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-5:	
2. Hooks	Story opening grabs reader's attention with an interesting opening line or situation; starts at the correct place. Chapter ending makes the reader want to turn the page. <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
3. Setting	Setting is clearly defined without extraneous detail; non-intrusive. Writer takes advantage of opportunities to ground reader by using the five senses and a sense of time and place. <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
4. Characterization	Hero and/or Heroine display traits and flaws; character traits are shown rather than told. Goals and motivation create genuine conflict (not contrived), and secondary characters, if present, are necessary and non-intrusive.	Enter a score from 1-10:	

	<i>Judge's Comments:</i>		
5. Plot	Plot is skillfully set up; believable (or reader is able to suspend disbelief). Conflict is realistic and not easily resolved because of misunderstanding. Sexual and/or dramatic tension is present or implicit. <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
6. Conflict	What's at stake for the Hero and/or Heroine? Can the reader identify it? <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
7. Dialogue	Dialogue is balanced with narrative, is appropriate to the genre, moves the story forward, and sounds natural/realistic. <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
8. Narrative	Narrative moves the story forward. Background information is presented at appropriate time and in character viewpoint rather than author-intrusive. Point-of-view is clear and transitions are smooth and unobtrusive. <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
9. Pacing	The entry flows well through the chapter, and every scene is essential to the story. <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
10. Overall Impression	Story has potential; reader wants to know what happens next. Writing is vivid, evocative, and appropriate to the genre. Writer uses humor and/or drama effectively. Writer is a "storyteller." <i>Judge's Comments:</i>	Enter a score from 1-10:	
Total Score			0

	Description	Score
Tie-breaker #1	Rank how likely you would be to read this whole manuscript.	Enter a score from 1-10:
Tie-breaker #2	Rank how likely you would be to purchase this book in a store if it were published.	Enter a score from 1-10:

Please include any additional comments here:

Optional Judge Information to provide to the contestant – select all that apply:

- Published in romance
- Published other
- Golden Heart finalist
- Other contest award
- RWA Pro
- Unpublished