DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

WORDS ON FIRE: A POETRY AND PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL
WRITEN POETRY COMPETITION
SCORING RUBRIC

PRESENTATION (3 POINTS MAXIUM)

1. The poem is titled.
2. The poem is grammatically correct. There are no typos or misspellings.
3. The poet displays an understanding of enjambment and there are logical line breaks.

   (Exceptions will be given if there is an apparent stylistic choice for grammar or misspelling use)

STRUCTURE (3 POINTS MAXIMUM)

1. The poem has a clear beginning, middle and end.
2. The poem is clear in subject matter and message.
3. The poem uses literary devices (i.e. end rhyme, internal rhyme, alliteration, repetition, etc.)
4. The poem lines are concise. (Structure may be experimental or non-linear).

ARTISTIC QUALITY (4 POINTS MAXIMUM)

1. The poem fully expresses feelings, beliefs, and/or thoughts.
2. The poem is melodic and lyrical.
3. The poem indicates wisdom and confidence on the subject matter.
4. The poem does not use many clichés. Or if clichés are used, they are creatively and uniquely incorporated.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. All styles of poetry will be considered.
2. Poems submitted for the spoken word competition are not eligible for the written competition.
3. Points may be deducted for length if the clarity of the poem is distinctly affected.
4. Judges may assign up to 1/10th of a point.
5. Judges will determine a first, second, and third place winner based on their scores. More than 3 winners will not be permitted.
6. Evidence of plagiarism will result in disqualification. Sampling of short lines and/or collected collaged lines (i.e cento) are permissible.