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## Reflections of the Evaluator of the Essays

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## REFLECTIONS OF THE EVALUATOR OF THE ESSAYS

Evaluating the written work of others is never an easy task. One looks at the presented materials, and knows that long hours and hours of editing have gone into the final product. Good writing is a form of art. Just as painting, sculpting, or dancing, can be appreciated, so too can good writing,

There are very specific steps taken in an appraisal of this kind. First, the essays are read “for pleasure.” One looks for a delicious introduction that “draws” you into the paper, a certain flow of the wording that is creatively appropriate, and a dynamite ending that leaves you wanting more. Notes are taken as one reflects on what has just been read. Next, a simple scale for adjudication of each of the common criteria for essay writing is developed. After waiting several hours or even a day, the essays are read once again - this time with the aid of the evaluation piece. Final notes are taken, and the determination is made.

Selecting an ultimate winner from among winners is not an easy task. It is, however, quite satisfying – the only thing missing was a hammock to swing on and a tall glass of lemonade for refreshment.

Congratulations, essayists. Your work is appreciated.

Dr. Jan Albrecht  
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