

2008 WILLA CATEGORY RUBRIC

SCHOLARLY NONFICTION

Scholarly Nonfiction	Ineligible	4-7 points	8-10 points
1. Women of the West Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male main character(s); no relevant theme • Book not set in or pertain to the west* • Does not portray authentic western experience • Theme & content do not reflect WWW's mission & goals • Little or no educational merit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least half of the characters female; relevant theme • Book set in the west but could have happened anywhere; or, book partly set in the west* • Generally portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content generally well reflect WWW's mission & goals • Moderate educational merit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female main character(s), relevant theme • Western setting primary & essential* • Consistently portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content excellent reflections of WWW's mission & goals • Excellent educational merit
	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
2. Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depictions of people not well developed, or depiction not appropriate for target audience • Stereotypes evident** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat complex depictions of people (as appropriate for target audience) • Generally no gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex depictions of people (as appropriate for target audience) • No gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented**

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
3. Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting not important • Setting not described, or described poorly • Setting not described accurately • Illustrations (if used) rarely complement or match text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of moderate importance • Setting described in conventional terms • Setting usually described accurately • Illustrations (if used) usually complement or match text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of place is inherent in the book • Setting vividly described, using all senses • Setting described accurately • Illustrations (if used) consistently complement or match text
4. Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject predictable, or poorly considered • Narrative poorly developed • Beginning slow, confusing; conclusion not satisfying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject not new, but well done • Narrative moderately well developed • Slow beginning leads to more action; conclusion somewhat satisfying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject shows originality, freshness • Narrative very well developed • Opening draws reader in; ending is satisfying
5. Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice lacking or confusing • Quotations (if used) poorly integrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice dependable • Quotations (if used) generally well integrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice fresh, engaging, distinct • Quotations (if used) effectively integrated

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
6. Literary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material not original; Rehash of other books • Clumsy language • Imagery confusing • Text & illustrations (if used) not well matched • Not enjoyable or thought-provoking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original treatment of familiar topic • Smooth language • Imagery clear • Text & illustrations (if used) generally well matched • A pleasant read 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original topic not largely explored; interesting treatment • Clear command of language • Imagery vivid & fresh • Text & illustrations (if used) create a single whole • Enjoyable, thought-provoking
7. Technical Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book difficult to follow; poorly organized • Writing too wordy, or includes extraneous material • Poor grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc. • Citations confusing, incomplete; or, citations needed*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book generally readable; moderately well organized • Writing generally tight, with some redundancies or extraneous material • Good grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc. • Citations include clear, reliable secondary sources and a few primary sources*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book consistently easily readable, flows well; well organized • Writing tight • Clear command of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation etc • Citations clear, include reliable secondary sources and important primary sources***

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
8. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unattractive cover art & design • Interior design features lacking • Font & typesetting difficult to read • Illustrations (if used) of poor quality, not identified, or irrelevant to text • Illustrations (if used) not well balanced or matched with text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate cover art & design • Interior design features adequate • Font & typesetting adequate • Illustrations (if used) of moderate clarity, mostly identified; may not always be germane to the text • Illustrations (if used) provide good balance with text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive, appropriate, compelling cover art & design • Interior design features reflect book’s tone • Font & typesetting clear & well-chosen • Illustrations (if used) appropriate, clear, identified • Illustrations (if used) provide excellent balance with text

* WWW defines “the west” as all of North America west of the Mississippi River.

** An author’s depiction of a real individual’s biases or stereotypical views, presented in context, may be appropriate.

*** Citations might include endnotes, an author’s note, glossary, suggested bibliography, or other supplemental information.

This rubric was created by and for Women Writing the West, 2007.