

Contestants Number: _____

Contestants Age: _____

**Delaware 4-H Horse/Pony of the Year 2017
Essay Writing Contest
Scoring Rubric**

Grading Criteria	4	3	2	1
Essay Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 word minimum • 1000 word maximum • Must not include your name or horse/pony's registered name • Four photos provided • Written by 4-H'er 	All essay requirements have been met	Four out of Five essay requirements have been met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not meet minimum number of words needed • exceeds maximum allowed words • included name or registered name of horse/pony • Required number of photos not provided • Writing does not appear to be age appropriate 	Three out of Five essay requirements have been met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not meet minimum number of words needed • exceeds maximum allowed words • included name or registered name of horse/pony • Required number of photos not provided • Writing does not appear to be age appropriate 	Two out of Five essay requirements have been met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not meet minimum number of words needed • exceeds maximum allowed words • included name or registered name of horse/pony • Required number of photos not provided • Writing does not appear to be age appropriate
Ideas and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic and main idea: <i>How your horse or pony has influenced/impacted your life or another person's life.</i> • Support main idea with details 	The topic and main ideas are clear. Details and examples support the ideas	The topic and ideas are clear but there is not enough detail. The writing stays on topic but doesn't address minor parts of the assignment	There is a very general topic, but the writing stays off topic or doesn't address major parts of the assignments	The topic and ideas are unclear. It's hard to tell which information is most important. May be repetitious or disconnected thoughts with no main point
Conventions	Few, if any, errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar	Spelling, punctuation and caps usually correct. Some grammar problems	Errors are frequent enough to make writing hard to understand	Errors are so frequent they are distracting. The paper is almost impossible to read

Rubric Score: _____/12 points PLUS

Sentimental/Emotional Value Score (Scale of 1 minimal to 4 maximum) _____

= Total Score (out of 16 possible) _____