



Manuscript Title _____ No. _____ Judge's No. _____
 Category _____ Sub genre _____
 Targeted Market _____

<p>CATEGORY CHAIR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the mms entered in the correct category? Yes/No 2. Are there 25 pp or less in the mms? Yes/No 3. Does the mms follow the contest guidelines? Yes/No 	<p>Possible score: 100</p> <p>Total score: _____</p>
---	---

JUDGES: Please write constructive comments on the manuscript. Comments on the score sheet are highly encouraged. We want our contestants to have helpful feedback.

Common abbreviations used by judges on the manuscript:
SDT=show; don't tell. **AWK**=awkward sentence structure. **POV**=point of view shift.
FBP=flying body parts. **CL**=cliché
DUMP=information dump i.e. back story or dialogue as means of telling reader information without moving story forward.
REP=repetition in story/need different way of saying the same thing.

Judge's Profile:

Published Romance RWA Pro Published Other Trained Judge # of years writing _____

Opening Scene: SCORE _____ / **15 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

+ = well done ✓ = shows promise x = in need of improvement

- _____ Does the opening pull you into the story?
- _____ Is the opening bogged down with back story?
- _____ Does the first scene prompt you to read more
- _____ Do you have a sense of time and place?

Additional Comments:

Characterization: SCORE _____ / **15** POINTS Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

+ = well done **✓ = shows promise** **x = in need of improvement**

_____ Are the hero/heroine introduced in a timely manner or their meeting foreshadowed?

_____ Are the characters well-developed with believable strengths and flaws?

_____ Is the relationship between the hero/heroine emotional as well as physical?

_____ Do you believe these characters will achieve happily-ever-after?

_____ Are secondary characters appropriate to the story?

_____ Are the heroine's goals/conflicts identifiable?

_____ Does her motivation make her actions believable?

_____ Are the hero's goals/conflicts identifiable?

_____ Does his motivation make his actions believable?

Additional Comments:**Plot:** SCORE _____ / **15** POINTS Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

+ = well done **✓ = shows promise** **x = in need of improvement**

_____ Is the plot fresh and appealing even if it contains familiar romantic ingredients?

_____ Is the story problem evident?

_____ Can you see an initial hint of external conflict in these first pages?

_____ Does conflict (internal and external) flow naturally or does it seem forced?

_____ Does the pace fit the action, tone and tension of the story?

_____ Is the pacing effective?

_____ Are transitions smooth and easy-to-follow?

_____ Does the chapter end so you would want to turn the page?

Additional Comments:

Narrative/Dialogue:SCORE _____ / **20 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

+ = well done**✓ = shows promise x = in need of improvement**

- _____ Is the narrative compelling with vivid descriptions and pertinent details?
 _____ Are the five senses used to enhance the setting/emotions of the characters?
 _____ Is the setting recognizable?
 _____ Is the narrative intrusive?
 _____ Are narrative and dialogue well balanced?
 _____ Is the dialogue natural for the character?
 _____ Does each character have a distinctive voice?
 _____ Does the dialogue move the story forward or is it used as a back story/information dump?
 _____ Is action interspersed with the dialogue so that characters aren't "talking heads"?

Additional Comments:**Writing Technique:**SCORE _____ / **20 POINTS Available****Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

+ = well done**✓ = shows promise x = in need of improvement**

- _____ Is the entry presented professionally with few typos and generally-accepted punctuation?
 _____ Does the author have a unique voice that makes this manuscript stand out?
 _____ Is writing easy-to-read with varied sentence length and structure?
 _____ Is action shown, not told?
 _____ Is point of view handled appropriately?
 _____ Are transitions of time and setting logical and smooth?

Additional Comments:**Single Title Subgenre**SCORE _____ / **15 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

+ = well done**✓ = shows promise x = in need of improvement**

- _____ 1. Is the heroine's character or situation more complex than typically found in heroines of series (category) romance?
 _____ 2. Are there hints the romance between the hero and heroine is the primary focus of the story?
 _____ 3. Are the secondary characters necessary or intrusive?

Additional Comments: