

NEORWA CLEVELAND ROCKS ROMANCE CONTEST
Young Adult / New Adult Score Sheet

Note: Before judging, please read the judging guidelines carefully. 100 points would be perfect score.

10 Points	15 Points	20 Points
9-10 = Submission ready 7-8 = Minor edits required 5-6 = Moderate edits required 4 = Extensive edits required	13-15 = Submission ready 10-12 = Minor edits required 7-9 = Moderate edits required 5-6 = Extensive edits required	17-20 = Submission ready 13-16 = Minor edits required 9-12 = Moderate edits required 7-8 = Extensive edits required

Entry:

Code: YA

Judge #:

Judge's Name (optional):

FINAL SCORE:

GENERAL ELEMENTS:

_____ **Opening (10 points):** Does the opening sentence/paragraph attract attention and entice the reader to continue? Is there immediate action or interesting dialogue? Does the opening scene create a sense of pending conflict or action?

_____ **Setting and Backstory (10 points):** Is the location/setting clearly established within the first chapter? Is backstory integrated into dialogue or action (that is, not an information dump)? Is character background integrated into dialogue or action?

_____ **Characters (15 points):**

- Are the characters distinct and interesting from the beginning?
- Are the main characters described sufficiently for the reader to picture them?
- Do the characters act or react plausible?
- Do supporting characters have distinct personalities?
- Do all the supporting characters appear to have a purpose in the story?

_____ **Story (Goal, Motivation, Conflict) (15 points):**

- Were you hooked by the plot? Is it fresh and original?
- Are there clearly defined goals/problems that the main characters must deal with?
- Is the motivation of the main characters for their goals obvious and well-presented?
- Is a major conflict presented early in the story?
- Is the conflict credible and believable and arising out of the characterization and circumstances?(For example, *not* a simple misunderstanding, a clichéd big misunderstanding, or something that could be cleared up by h/h simply talking honestly to each other.)
- Do the characters make credible choices?

Dialogue (10 points):

- Is the dialogue natural, not stilted or overly narrative?
- Is each character's voice distinct and consistent?
- Does the dialogue move the story forward?
- Is there an appropriate mix of dialogue and narrative?

Craft (10 points):

- POV: Is the point of view clearly related to one character in the opening? Are switches in point of view or emphasis easy to follow?
- Does the story move along at an appropriate pace, without rushing or dragging?
- Is there good use of all five senses in descriptions?
- Is the writing active?
- Does the author 'show' rather than 'tell'?

Young Adult / New Adult Market Appropriateness (20 points)

- Is the story theme and conflict something YA or NA readers can identify with or care about?
- Will YA or NA readers find the characters sympathetic and believable?
- Do the behavior and emotions of the characters reflect their ages?
- Is the language understandable to and reflective of that of Young Adult or New Adult?
- Will the writing style and tone strike a chord with YA or NA readers?
- Do you think this story "works" for YA or NA readers? Would an editor/agent consider it marketable to that group?

Professional Presentation (Grammar, punctuation, spelling, word usage, sentence structure) (10 points) *See judging guidelines!*

Judge's Comments

(Be informative and factual, don't hide problems, but use a constructive and tactful tone.)