Judging Criteria: Book-Length Non-Fiction and Memoir (Published or Unpublished**)**
Each criterion receives a point score of from 1 to 5. Maximum score: 85.

5- Excellent
4- Very Good—Could still use a bit of polish
3- Solid—Could benefit from refinement
2- In Process—Needs work to meet its potential
1- Starting Point—Concept is there, needs substantial work to meet its potential

Is the opening compelling and make the reader want to continue reading?
Is the pacing appropriate and does it move rapidly enough to sustain interest?
Does the writer use interesting facts, examples, opinions, anecdotes and/or explanations to develop the piece?
Is the necessary background information presented in a concise and well-balanced manner?
Is the piece organized effectively, with strong transitions and a conclusion that ties it all together?
Is there a satisfying tie between the opening of the piece and its resolution?
Does each scene have a clear and necessary relationship with the scenes that precede and follow it?
Does the author provide a sufficient amount of information (or narration) to hold the reader's attention and to answer any questions that may arise from reading the entry?
Does the opening section provide the reader with confidence that the author knows this topic well?
Does the piece inspire the reader to think or feel strongly about the subject matter?
Is the writing free of extraneous details that do not contribute to the overall effectiveness of the piece?
Is the writing fresh, clear, and focused?
Is the entry presented professionally and following the format required by the contest?
Is the writing clear and focused without overusing adjectives, adverbs, or passive verbs?
Is the work without errors in grammar or logic?
Does the author use a variety of sentence structures and lengths?
Is the manuscript free of typographical, spelling, and punctuation errors?
***Total Score*_____**