

# HONORS IN ACTION

## PLANNING AND JUDGING RUBRIC

### ACADEMIC RIGOR OF RESEARCH – 34 points

#### Research Question

**5 points** - The chapter developed a thoughtful, answerable research question to guide its academic investigation of the Honors Study Topic through one of the themes in the current Honors Program Guide.

#### Research Objectives

**5 points** - Research objectives clearly emphasized the importance of intentional research as the cornerstone of the Honors in Action project.

*Note: Research objectives are related to your Honors Study Topic academic research and include, but are not limited to, things such as the development of your Honors in Action (HIA) team, the number of sources to review (this can certainly be more than eight, but you choose the eight most impactful sources to include in your Hallmark Award entry), how the team will determine research conclusions, the team's reflection objectives, the project timeline, and other objectives you hope to accomplish with your HIA project.*

#### Academic Research

**5 points** - The entry clearly conveys in-depth academic research into the Honors Study Topic through one of the Themes in the current Honors Program Guide.

#### Research Conclusions

**5 points** - The in-depth academic research clearly provided substantial material for the chapter to carefully weigh and consider in determining an action component to implement that clearly addressed a finding and is directly connected to their research conclusions. Clear, compelling evidence shows the research activities allowed participants to strengthen critical thinking skills.

*Note: Research conclusions are what you learned and can articulate from your substantive academic research into PTK's Honors Study Topic. Hallmark Award judges should see evidence of members' critical thinking and research skills strengthened as a result of the chapter's academic research. The research conclusions lead you directly to your chapter's action – be sure to make it clear WHY your research conclusions led to your specific plan of action.*

### Bibliography/Citations

#### A. Academic Sources

**3 points** - The chapter's research included eight sources that were clearly academic publications or academic interviews with expert sources conducted in the past year by the chapter team.

#### B. Sources' Range of Viewpoints

**3 points** - Expert sources are clearly wide-ranging and clearly represent different points of view about the Honors Study Topic and the Theme selected by the chapter from the current Honors Program Guide.

### Citations

#### A. APA Citations Structure

**3 points** - The citations are written in formal, full, and consistent APA style and structure.

#### B. Bibliographic Annotations

**3 points** - Bibliographic annotations of academic sources provide robust evidence supporting why the source was significant to the chapter's research and how the evidence clearly related to the chapter's research conclusions.

#### Spelling and Grammar

**2 points** - Spelling and grammar are faultless. Entry is well-written and easy to follow.



## SERVICE/ACTION – 33 points

### Action Objectives

**5 points** - Project objectives were clearly measurable and clearly emphasized the importance of taking action or serving AND emphasized the clearly defined proposed scope of the project.

### Action's Connection to PTK's Honors Study Topic

**6 points** - The chapter clearly shows with specific evidence how the action was developed from the chapter's Honors Study Topic research conclusions.

### Outreach/Collaboration

**5 points** - The chapter's project (Academic Investigation and/or Action) reached a variety of audiences including BOTH the college and the community, and the role(s) played by collaborators were substantive and stemmed from the chapter's research conclusions.

### Communication

**5 points** - There is clear and compelling evidence that communication among the participating individuals and/or organizations was effective and efficient and that they explicitly shared common objectives.

### Heightened Awareness of Self and Community in Relation to Global Issues

**5 points** - Solid, specific evidence is given that chapter, college, and community participants heightened their awareness of self and community in relation to global issues.

### Increased Appreciation for Value of Informed Action as Lifelong Endeavor

**5 points** - The entry provided clear, strong, and specific evidence that participants increased their appreciation for the value of informed action/service as a lifelong endeavor.

### Spelling and Grammar

**2 points** - Spelling and grammar are flawless. Entry is well-written and easy to follow.



## **IMPACT – 33 points**

### **Contribution to Understanding of the Honors Study Topic**

**6 points** - Without question, the project made substantial, specific contributions to participants' understanding of a Theme as it relates to the current Honors Study Topic.

### **Contribution to Understanding of the Importance of Lifelong Intentional Service**

**5 points** - Without question, the action piece of the project made a substantial, specific, and measurable contribution to improving an issue determined from the chapter's Honors Study Topic research conclusions and within the clearly defined proposed scope.

### **Contribution to Improving an Issue within the Clearly Defined Proposed Scope**

**5 points** - Without question, the project had significant, specific, short-term impact and clear potential for long-term impact.

### **Research Quantitative and Qualitative Outcomes**

**5 points** - Without question, the project's research outcomes were exceptional and specific for the Honors in Action time frame, addressed the chapter's objectives, and were both quantitative and qualitative.

*Research outcomes are related to your Honors Study Topic academic research and research objectives and include, but are not limited to, things such as the development of your Honors in Action (HIA) team, the number of sources reviewed (this can certainly be more than eight, but you*

*choose the eight most impactful sources to include in your Hallmark Award entry), how the team determined its research conclusions, how the team reflected throughout the research part of the project, how the team met its project timeline, and how the chapter met its other research-related objectives. Finally, how did the team determine whether members grew as scholars and leaders?*

### **Action Quantitative and Qualitative Outcomes**

**5 points** - Without question, the project's action outcomes were exceptional and specific for the Honors in Action time frame, addressed the chapter's objectives, and were both quantitative and qualitative.

### **Reflection**

**5 points** - Without question, the chapter assessed in an intentional, consistent, and reflective way throughout the project what they learned, how they grew as scholars and leaders, and how they met their proposed project objectives.

### **Spelling and Grammar**

**2 points** - Spelling and grammar are faultless. Entry is well-written and easy to follow.

Check out the latest version of the Honors in Action Hallmark Award questions and judging rubric at <https://portal.ptk.org/Programs/HallmarkAwards/HallmarkAwardCategories>

Looking for examples of Honors in Action projects and Hallmark Award entries? Check out the latest edition of *Civic Scholar: Phi Theta Kappa Journal of Undergraduate Research* at <https://www.ptk.org/Programs/HonorsinAction/CivicScholar.aspx>