

THE YARID RUBRIC

	Creative	Novel	Constructive	Depth	Well-argued	Informed	Timely	Interesting
N/A								
Flag: awful								
1 (subpar)								
4 (decent)								
6 (good)								
10 (great)								
Flag: exceptional								

The Structure of the Rubric

Categories (each must receive exactly one rating)

- Creative
- Novel
- Constructive
- Depth
- Well-argued
- Informed
- Timely
- Interesting

Possible Ratings (choose one per category)

Numeric

- 1 – Subpar
- 4 – Decent
- 6 – Good
- 10 – Great

Non-Numeric

- N/A – This criterion genuinely does not apply to the piece.

- Flag: Awful – The way the piece engages this criterion is actively harmful or disqualifying.
- Flag: Exceptional – The way the piece engages this criterion is unusually strong or original.

Every category receives ONE label:

- Either 1 / 4 / 6 / 10, or N/A, or Flag-Awful, or Flag-Exceptional.
-

How the Rubric Is Used

1. First-Round Scoring

- Each piece will have the name of the author removed.
 - Each piece is evaluated independently by two editorial board members.
 - Reviewers score every category using the ratings above.
 - Reviewers also provide brief qualitative comments, especially for flags.
 - Reviews then meet and discuss the article.
-

How Scores Are Calculated

A. Numeric Component

- Only categories rated 1, 4, 6, or 10 count toward the numeric score.
 - Categories marked N/A, Flag–Awful, or Flag–Exceptional are excluded entirely from the average (i.e., denominator shrinks).
 - The resulting average is the piece’s numeric score.
 - Example: If 6 categories are numeric and 2 are N/A, denominator = 6.
-

B. Non-Numeric Component

Flags do not affect the numeric score. They trigger discussion.

N/A

- Used when the criterion genuinely does not apply.

- No penalty or reward. The category is simply ignored.

Flag – Awful

- Indicates a serious, disqualifying problem in that category
 - (E.g., hostile, defamatory, unconstructive, or unethical content).
- Automatically places the piece on the board’s discussion docket.
- Does not automatically disqualify the piece, but seriously weighs against publication.

Flag – Exceptional

- Indicates unusually original, insightful, or brilliant engagement with the criterion.
 - Automatically places the piece on the board’s discussion docket.
 - Does not guarantee publication, but weighs strongly in favor of it, especially if the numeric score is middling.
 - Examples (novel): Hirsch on a [Sovereign Wealth Fund](#) and Loeb on [Jewish Astronauts](#).
-

Why the Scale Is 1-4-6-10

- 1 and 10 allow strong penalties/bonuses for truly weak or truly excellent work.
 - 4 and 6 cluster average submissions realistically without false precision.
 - This prevents editors from getting stuck debating whether something is a “5 or a 6” and yields cleaner math.
-

In Brief

- Every piece receives 8 ratings from 2 reviewers.
 - Each rating is one of: N/A, 1, 4, 6, 10, Flag–Awful, Flag–Exceptional.
 - The piece’s numeric score = average of numeric categories only.
 - Flags trigger discussion and can override the numeric score (positively or negatively).
 - Final publication decisions are made by the full editorial board.
-

THE YARID EDITORIAL WORKFLOW

1. Roles

Editorial Board Chair

- Assigns reviewers, manages timelines, runs meetings, ensures fairness.
- Holds one vote and votes last (when among a sequence of board members).

Editorial Board (5 members)

- Score submissions using the rubric.
- Deliberate and vote on publication decisions.
- Edit accepted pieces.

Advisory Board

- Offers big-picture intellectual guidance.
 - The board will view all pieces prior to publication.
 - The Advisory Board can override an Editorial Board decision if over 80% of Advisory Board members vote to do so.
-

2. Submission & Review

- Submissions are anonymized and sorted into categories (Prompt-Based, Creative).
 - Each submission receives two independent rubric evaluations.
 - Reviewers submit:
 - Completed rubric
 - Qualitative notes
 - Pieces with the highest overall numeric scores or flags (any kind) automatically advance to shortlisting.
-

3. Shortlisting

For each category (Prompt-Based, Creative), the shortlist includes:

- The top 10-15 numerically scored pieces.
- All flagged pieces (Awful or Exceptional).

4. Final Deliberation & Voting

- All board members review each shortlisted piece and its rubric scores in advance.
- At the meeting:
 - The piece is discussed.
 - Only editorial board members vote.

Voting Procedure

Each editor votes:

- Publish
- Reject
- Revisit

Voting Rules

- Simple majority determines the outcome.
- If tied, the piece is moved to the end of the docket and re-voted.
- Each editorial board member may exercise one veto per issue.
 - A veto blocks publication unless overturned by a 66% supermajority.
 - The Chair may use a veto like the other members.
- The Chair votes last in every vote.

Advisory Board Veto

- Following the Editorial Board vote, all pieces approved for publication are sent to the Advisory Board prior to the editing stage.
- The Advisory Board may veto a publication decision only if at least 80% of Advisory Board members vote to do so.
- An Advisory Board veto blocks publication of a given piece.
- The Editorial Board will undergo the voting process again to replace the vetoed piece.
- The Advisory Board may not override rejections or force publication.

Final Authority

- Editorial Board decisions stand unless an Advisory Board veto is triggered under the rule above.
-

5. Editing & Author Communication

- Accepted pieces are assigned to a Primary Editor (and optional Secondary Editor).
 - Editors collaborate with authors through developmental and line edits.
 - Chair performs a final review before publication.
 - Authors receive:
 - Acceptance email
 - Revision instructions
 - Timeline & expectations
-

6. Altering Key Elements of *The YARID*

- Any vote to change a key element of the publication itself or the publication process must be initiated by more than one member of the editorial board.
 - A simple majority is required to pass a new policy/guidelines, while a 66% supermajority is needed to strike down existing policies/guidelines.
 - Editors can vote yes, no, or abstain.
-