WILLA CATEGORY RUBRIC
SCHOLARLY NONFICTION ©
(Created October 2007)

Scholarly Nonfiction	Ineligible	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
1. Women of the West Theme	• Male main character(s); no relevant theme • Book not set in or pertain to the West* • Does not portray authentic western experience • Theme & content do not reflect WWW's mission & goals • Little or no educational merit	• At least half of the characters female; relevant theme • Book set in the West but could have happened anywhere; or, book partly set in the West* • Generally portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content generally well reflect WWW's mission & goals • Moderate educational merit	• Female main character(s), relevant theme • Western setting primary & essential* • Consistently portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content excellent reflections of WWW's mission & goals • Excellent educational merit
	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
2. Characterization	• Depictions of people not well developed, or depiction not appropriate for target audience • Stereotypes evident**	• Somewhat complex depictions of people (as appropriate for target audience) • Generally no gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented**	• Complex depictions of people (as appropriate for target audience) • No gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented**
3. Setting	• Setting not important • Setting not described, or described poorly • Setting not described accurately • Illustrations (if used) rarely complement or match text	• Setting of moderate importance • Setting described in conventional terms • Setting usually described accurately • Illustrations (if used) usually complement or match text	• A sense of place is inherent in the book • Setting vividly described, using all senses • Setting described accurately • Illustrations (if used) consistently complement or match text

	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
4. Narrative	• Poor presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject predictable, or poorly considered • Narrative poorly developed • Beginning slow, confusing; conclusion not satisfying	• Fair presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject not new, but well done • Narrative moderately well developed • Slow beginning leads to more action; conclusion somewhat satisfying	• Excellent presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject shows originality, freshness • Narrative very well developed • Opening draws reader in; ending is satisfying
5. Voice	• Narrative voice lacking or confusing • Quotations (if used) poorly integrated	• Narrative voice dependable • Quotations (if used) generally well integrated	• Narrative voice fresh, engaging, distinct • Quotations (if used) effectively integrated
6. Literary Qualities	• Material not original; rehash of other books • Clumsy language • Imagery confusing • Text & illustrations (if used) not well matched • Not enjoyable or thought-provoking	• Original treatment of familiar topic • Smooth language • Imagery clear • Text & illustrations (if used) generally well matched • A pleasant read	• Original topic not largely explored; interesting treatment • Clear command of language • Imagery vivid & fresh • Text & illustrations (if used) create a single whole • Enjoyable, thought-provoking

	0 - 3 points	4 - 7 points	8 - 10 points
7. Technical Conventions	• Book difficult to follow; poorly organized • Writing too wordy, or includes extraneous material • Poor grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc. • Citations confusing, incomplete; or, citations needed***	• Book generally readable; moderately well organized • Writing generally tight, with some redundancies or extraneous material • Good grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc. • Citations include clear, reliable secondary sources and a few primary sources***	• Book consistently easily readable, flows well; well organized • Writing tight • Clear command of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation etc. • Citations clear, include reliable secondary sources and important primary sources***
8. Presentation	• Unattractive cover art & design • Interior design features lacking • Font & typesetting difficult to read • Illustrations (if used) of poor quality, not identified, or irrelevant to text • Illustrations (if used) not well balanced or matched with text	• Adequate cover art & design • Interior design features adequate • Font & typesetting adequate • Illustrations (if used) of moderate clarity, mostly identified; may not always be germane to the text • Illustrations (if used) provide good balance with text	• Attractive, appropriate, compelling cover art & design • Interior design features reflect book's tone • Font & typesetting clear & well-chosen • Illustrations (if used) appropriate, clear, identified • Illustrations (if used) provide excellent balance with text • Properly bound, i.e. audio books and e-books

* WWW defines "the West" as all of North America west of the Mississippi River.

** An author's depiction of a real individual's biases or stereotypical views, presented in context, may be appropriate.

*** Citations might include endnotes, an author's note, glossary, suggested bibliography, or other supplemental information.