



MWSA Review Standards

To ensure a consistent and uniform review process, MWSA reviewers use a proprietary scoring system for each book submitted for review.

The actual numbers and weighting factors are confidential and are never released to anyone outside of the MWSA Board of Directors, Award Committee, and individual reviewers.

The following are the general categories that reviewers use to evaluate each book submitted for review:

- 1. Style:** Is the book presented in a compelling and creative way
- 2. Visual:** Is the book visually appealing? Is the cover eye-catching and does it support the message/tone of the book? Is the layout professional and easy to read? Are there obvious layout errors; margins too small, inconsistent chapter numbers, font too small for easy reading, gross spelling and/or grammatical errors.
- 3. Believable:** Understanding that many of the topics that our authors choose are related to military situations or historical events, use your judgment for books outside our normal genres like science fiction, murder mysteries, and children's book. For non-fiction books, is the book in question well-researched and historically accurate or are the perspectives of various people respected – or if a memoir, are the authors' assertions plausible. If the book is fiction, has the story been created in such a way that the book is plausible? In other words, is the work BELIEVABLE?
- 4. Technical:** How well does the author actually write? This is different from style, in that it is more technical.
- 5. Recommendation:** Would you *really* recommend the book to other people?

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