

## Knighton Award Judging Criteria

Criteria	Criteria Elements	Maximum Score
<p><b>1. The audit scope has the potential for significant impact and is responsive to the needs and concerns of decision-makers and/or the public.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit scope has the <u>potential</u> for significant impact. This means the audit may result in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Significant improvement in the efficiency or effectiveness of the auditee’s operations;</li> <li>➤ Significant budget savings for the agency or for the jurisdiction (i.e., the public); or</li> <li>➤ Significant, positive impact on the jurisdiction/public.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Information in the audit is used by decision-makers. For example, lawmakers or agency personnel create or adjust laws, rules, regulations, etc. in response to audit findings.</li> <li>• The audit impacts, or has the potential for significant impact on, public concerns. For example, significant health or safety issues were identified.</li> <li>• The audit had an innovative scope or topic.</li> </ul>	25
<p><b>2. Audit conclusions are persuasive, logical, and firmly supported by the evidence, which was gathered using appropriate research methods and tools.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence was gathered using solid or innovative research methods and tools.</li> <li>• Audit work and conclusions are clearly linked to the stated objectives.</li> <li>• Conclusions are logical and persuasive because they are clearly and consistently supported by the evidence and the audit work.</li> <li>• Persuasive language in the audit report helps convince the reader of audit conclusions.</li> <li>• The auditee agreed with the facts underlying the recommendations.</li> <li>• The auditors used innovative audit methodologies to achieve their objectives.</li> </ul>	25
<p><b>3. Audit recommendations that are feasible and will make government programs more effective and efficient.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit recommendations are clear, specific, and feasible.</li> <li>• Audit recommendations will make the agency or program more effective and more efficient.</li> <li>• Recommendations clearly address the identified cause.</li> <li>• Recommendations are clearly and consistently linked to audit conclusions.</li> <li>• The audit resulted in innovative recommendations.</li> </ul>	25
<p><b>4. Audit results that are communicated in a clear, concise way.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit report is organized so the message is clear and evident throughout the report.</li> <li>• Audit report contains a polished flow of ideas from introduction to conclusion and recommendations.</li> <li>• Writing is smooth and easy to read. The sentence structure promotes ease of reading.</li> <li>• Information presented in the report is fully relevant to the conclusions and objectives.</li> <li>• The audit report is professional, clean, and strategically incorporates breaks, such as tables, charts, and white space.</li> <li>• Techniques, such as an executive summary and section headings, are used to communicate results to busy readers and decision-makers.</li> <li>• The report format or layout is original and enhances the reader’s ability to understand the audit.</li> </ul>	25

Note – The guidance in this document is provided to ensure judges consider similar elements when evaluating the Knighton Award submissions against the established criteria. All criteria elements do not need to be present to assign the maximum score; they are only provided as guidance for the judges.