

Scholarships • Grants • Ne
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Grants • Neighborhood • L

Format for Tonight

- Scholarship Program Overview and Basics
- Logistics of Essay Delivery
- Our Suggested Approach to Scoring
- Sample Scoring Together

NOTE – You can access the sample scoring essays and evaluation form via the link in the chat. These were also emailed earlier.

Scholarship History

Over 2,000 college scholarships since inception

1991 - 11 students were awarded \$4,350

2024 120 scholarships for ~\$140,000

Sponsored by about 60 local businesses, organizations, family foundations, and nonprofits; scholarships are based on a variety of criteria determined by donors

Recipients:

- Graduating high school seniors living in Eagan or attending EHS
 - From several different high schools

Essay Scoring Basics

- About 270 scholarship applicants = 270 essays to score
- Each essay gets read and scored by **two separate readers**
 - Essay score is averaged and final score is incorporated into the composite score
- We find that 20 essays is a good number for new readers
- March 15: Google Drive Folder access to all the materials will be granted
- March 25: Deadline for completed Essay Scoring
- Send summary sheet via email or just saved in folder by 7pm

Essay Logistics

My Drive > 2020 Shared Essay Folders > Inze Berg

Name ↑



Essays to Score



1 Reader-Scorer Instructions 2020.docx



2 Evaluation Form Required Essay.docx



3 Scholarship Essay Sample low.pdf



4 Scholarship Essay Sample Middle.pdf



5 Scholarship Essay sample high.pdf



6 Essay Scoring Summary Template INSTRUCTIONS.xlsx



7 Inez Bergquist Essay Scoring Summary Template 2020.xlsx



8 Evaluation Form Flint Hills.pdf

You will need a google account* to access the essays.

Let me know if that is an issue. I can create a temporary account if necessary.

Essay Logistics

My Drive > 2020 Shared Essay Folders

Name ↑

Essays to Score

- 1 Reader-Scorer Instructions 2020.docx
- 2 Evaluation Form Required Essay.docx
- 3 Scholarship Essay Sample low.pdf
- 4 Scholarship Essay Sample Middle.pdf
- 5 Scholarship Essay sample high.pdf
- 6 Essay Scoring Summary Template INSTRUCTIONS.xlsx
- 7 Inez Bergquist Essay Scoring Summary Template 2020.xlsx
- 8 Evaluation Form Flint Hills.pdf

- ResponseID3972ItemID3716Required_Essay_Redacted
- ResponseID3974ItemID3716Required_Essay_Redacted
- ResponseID3975ItemID3716RequiredEssay Redacted
- Response
- Response
- Response
- Response
- Response
- Response

ID 3972

To Speak or to Listen

Silence

Throughout my life silence has been my main mode of communicating, charming, charismatic communicator that everybody seems to love. I watched. Nod for yes, shake for no, shrug for anything else people thought to say, and sometimes I even thought of something, but I could never say it. Did I said something stupid? What if I wasn't even thinking about the right thing to say the entire conversation the wrong way? I was never completely sure of what I was saying anything. From 6th to 9th grade, it stayed the same. There were days on one hand the number of words that I had said at school, and on the other hand the number of words I had spoken to. I couldn't just speak, I had to be sure of what I was going to say.

Silence is

What is silence? Silence is officially defined as the complete absence of sound. But for me, silence is a bit different. For me, silence consists of not speaking, but listening. In the lack of sound around me, there is only a lack of sound from me. I can't ask for ketchup at a restaurant because I didn't want to speak. I used to

Essay Logistics

REQUIRED ESSAY EVALUATION FOR ID# _____

40 total points

My Drive > 2020 Shared Essay Folders > Inze Berg

Name ↑

- Essays to Score
- 1 Reader-Scorer Instructions 2020.docx
- 2 Evaluation Form Required Essay.docx
- 3 Scholarship Essay Sample low.pdf
- 4 Scholarship Essay Sample Middle.pdf
- 5 Scholarship Essay sample high.pdf
- 6 Essay Scoring Summary Template INSTRUCTIONS.xlsx
- 7 Inez Bergquist Essay Scoring Summary Template 2020.xlsx
- 8 Evaluation Form Flint Hills.pdf



Applicant essay question: Students were instructed to make a one-page response to one of the question below. Not all students indicated which question they answered. For your reference, the options were:

- a) Discuss something you have done that made a difference in your community.
- b) Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart.
- c) Pick an experience from your own life and explain how it has influenced you.
- d) What ideas do you have to improve racial equity or address social justice issues within the Eagan community or within your school?

Overall Approach: You are grading on a bell curve. Rate how the applicant's essay met the following criteria COMPARED to the others you are evaluating. Please use the full scale; you will have a couple of 10s, and you probably will have a few 1s. The majority will land in between.

1. How relevant or clearly related to one of the essay question options is the essay topic? I.e. - did they actually cover on of the above questions? Did they pick a suitable example?

1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

Poor Average Superior

2. How well did the applicant answer the questions? Think quality and quantity. Did the student provide a relatively substantive response (about one page)? Does the student include several supporting ideas/points that support their topic?

1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

Poor Average Superior

NOTE: If the student did not respond to one of the actual prompts, it would be difficult for them to score highly on 1 and 2. However, that same essay could still score very highly in the following items.

3. Rate the applicant's writing for interest and creativity. Did the essay hold your interest? Was the writing creative? (You may want to give 5 pts for interest and 5 pts for creativity)

1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

Poor Average Superior

4. Rate the applicant's writing for mechanics/grammar (spelling, sentence structure, punctuation) (5 pts)

1—2—3—4—5

Poor Average Superior

5. Rate the applicant's organization/flow of paper (well thought- out, clear beginning, middle, and end easy to read) (5 pts)

1—2—3—4—5

Poor Average Superior

Total points: _____

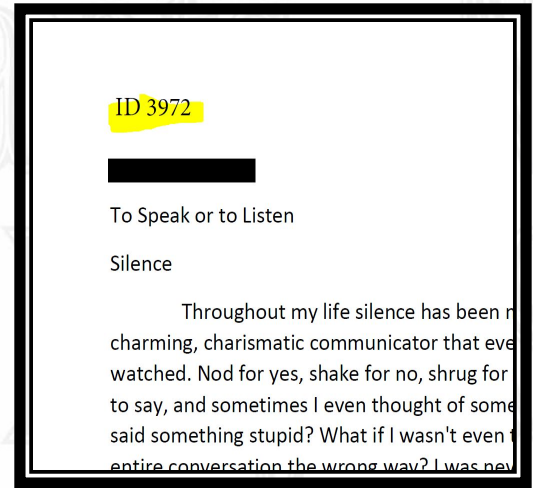
ESSAY SCORING SUMMARY

| Reader | Essay | Essay # | How relevant or closely related was the topic? (max 10 pts) | How well did they answer? (max 10 pts) | Interest and Creativity (max 10 pts) | Mechanics and Grammar (max 5 pts) | Organization and Flow (max 5 pts) | Enter Essay Score <i>40 pts. max.</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| your name will be here | Required Essay | 3972 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 27 |
| | Required Essay | 3974 | | | | | | 0 |
| | Required Essay | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Required Essay | | | | | | | 0 |
| | Required Essay | | | | | | | 0 |

<- Use the spreadsheet to score if you like. If you don't use it, I only need this column filled in.

Help us Ensure a Blind Scoring Process:

- Essays are “scrubbed” for clearly identifying data before you receive them.
- If you see that some identifying data (name, position as captain on a specific team, parent’s name) has been left in OR
- If upon reading an essay you are confident that you know the student by content or experience described...then **stop reading the essay** and alert Jamie Hopkins jamie.hopkins@eaganfoundation.org of the ID number so she can reassign it. Then delete the essay.



Suggested Approach to Scoring

Use the Evaluation Form – we'll go over it in more detail when we do our practice scoring

REQUIRED ESSAY EVALUATION FOR ID# _____

40 total points

Applicant essay question: Students were instructed to make a one-page response to one of the question below. Not all students indicated which question they answered. For your reference, the options were:

- Discuss something you have done that made a difference in your community.
- Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart.
- Pick an experience from your own life and explain how it has influenced you.
- What ideas do you have to improve racial equity or address social justice issues within the Eagan community or within your school?

Overall Approach: You are grading on a bell curve. Rate how the applicant's essay met the following criteria COMPARED to the others you are evaluating. Please use the full scale: you will have a couple of 10s, and you probably will have a few 1s. The majority will land in between.

1. **How relevant or clearly related to one of the essay question options is the essay topic?** I.e. – did they actually cover on of the above questions? Did they pick a suitable example?

1—2----3-----4---5-----6-----7---8--9—10

Poor

Average

Superior

2. **How well did the applicant answer the questions?** Think quality and quantity. Did the student provide a relatively substantive response (about one page)? Does the student include several supporting ideas/points that support their topic?

1—2----3-----4---5-----6-----7---8--9—10

Poor

Average

Superior

NOTE: If the student did not respond to one of the actual prompts, it would be difficult for them to score highly on 1 and 2. However, that same essay could still score very highly in the following items.

3. **Rate the applicant's writing for interest and creativity.** Did the essay hold your interest? Was the writing creative? (You may want to give 5 pts for interest and 5 pts for creativity)

1—2----3-----4---5-----6-----7---8--9—10

Poor

Average

Superior

4. **Rate the applicant's writing for mechanics/grammar** (spelling, sentence structure, punctuation) (5 pts)

1—2----3-----4---5

Poor

Average

Superior

5. **Rate the applicant's organization/flow of paper** (well thought- out, clear beginning, middle, and end easy to read) (5 pts)

1—2----3-----4---5

Poor

Average

Superior

Total points: _____

Suggested Approach to Scoring

- You are scoring on a bell curve
- We suggest you read ALL essays before you start scoring
- After reading the essays, you might first group them as:
 - Weak or below average
 - Expected or average
 - Superior or above average

Suggested Approach to Scoring

After you have read all the essays, begin scoring using the Evaluation Form

- Don't get too caught up on grammar – balance it with responsiveness to the questions
- Consider rotating between your different piles as you start scoring
- Scorers generally have a range of averages from 20 – 32. The average “average” is around 26.
- Scores in the 35-40 range should be reserved for the truly exceptional. You may have no essays in this range – that's OK.

Suggested Approach to Scoring

- Don't worry about average - just be consistent.
- Each essay is read and scored by two separate scorers.
 - We assign essays so that any two scorers (Scorer John and Scorer Jane) score no more than 5 of the same essays.
 - We review scores and adjust if we feel it might be warranted.

Call or email with questions or concerns!

Sample Scoring

Let's do some scoring **TOGETHER!**

For your reference, the essay options were:

1. Discuss something you have done that **made a difference in your community.**
2. Discuss a **special attribute or accomplishment** that sets you apart.
3. Pick an **experience from your own life** and explain how it has influenced you.
4. What **ideas do you have to improve racial equity or address social justice issues** within the Eagan community or within your school?

Sample Scoring

2. How well did the applicant answer the questions?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10
Poor Average Superior

Think quality and quantity.

- Did the student provide a relatively substantive response (about one page)?
- Does the student include several supporting ideas/points that support their topic?

NOTE: If the student did not respond to one of the actual prompts, it would be difficult for them to score highly on 1 and 2. However, that same essay could still score very highly in other areas.

Sample Scoring

3. Rate the applicant's writing for interest and creativity.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10
Poor Average Superior

- Did the essay hold your attention?
- Was the writing creative or dynamic?
 - attention grabbing opener? extended metaphors?
- Consider giving 5 pts for interest and 5 pts for creativity.

Sample Scoring

4. Rate the applicant's writing for mechanics/grammar

1-----2-----3-----4-----5 (5 pts)

Poor Average Superior

- Spelling
- sentence structure
- Punctuation

5. Rate the applicant's organization/flow of paper

1-----2-----3-----4-----5 (5 pts)

Poor Average Superior

- Well thought- out
- clear beginning, middle, and end
- easy to read

1. How relevant or clearly related to one of the essay question options is the essay topic

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

Poor

Average

Superior

2. How well did the applicant answer the questions?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

Poor

Average

Superior

3. Rate the applicant's writing for interest and creativity.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

Poor

Average

Superior

4. Rate the applicant's writing for mechanics/grammar

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

Poor

Average

Superior

5. Rate the applicant's organization/flow of paper

1-----2-----3-----4-----5

Poor

Average

Superior

Scholarships • Grants • No
od • Live Work Play • S
port • Volunteers • Frien
nds • Bringing • Together
Grants • Neighborhood • L

Have Essays and Evaluation Form Handy Now

Sample Scoring

Remember our Guidance:

- You are scoring on a bell curve
- Read ALL essays before you start scoring and group as
 - Weak or below average
 - Expected or average
 - Superior or above average
- Consider rotating between the different piles as you start scoring
- Balance grammar with responsiveness to the questions
- Be consistent
- Only a few should be in 35-40 and only a few 10-15

Sample Scoring Discussion

What was hard?

What was easy?

Let's share some scores and discuss...

Questions!?

Next Steps:

March 15: Google Drive Folder access to all the materials will be granted