**Estrella Mountain Community College**

**ALL-USA Scholarship**

**Essay Rubric** (based upon the 6-trait Writing Rubric)

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|  | **3**  **Exemplary** | **2**  **Strong** | **1**  **Proficient** | **0**  **Not Evident** |
| **Ideas & Content--Endeavors**  **Conveys significant experience that shows application of academic & leadership skills.** Can encompass wide range and depth of experiences such as:   * Personal lives * Engagement in student organizations * Activities that exemplify initiative & leadership * Research projects * Creative performance art * Community and/or Service Learning | * **Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with relevant, strong supporting detail** | * **Clear, focused, interesting ideas with appropriate detail** | * **Evident main idea with some support which may be general or limited** |  |
| **Ideas & Content—Effects**  **Demonstrates benefit to self and others** **such as:**   * Life skills development * Life changes * Epiphanies * Challenges met * Re-purposing of lives | * **Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with relevant, strong supporting detail** | * **Clear, focused, interesting ideas with appropriate detail** | * **Evident main idea with some support which may be general or limited** |  |
|  | **3**  **Exemplary** | **2**  **Strong** | **1**  **Proficient** | **0**  **Not Evident** |
| **Organization**   * Structure * Introduction * Conclusion | * **Effectively organized in logical and creative manner** * **Creative and engaging intro and conclusion** | * **Strong order and structure** * **Inviting intro and satisfying closure** | * **Organization is apparent but conventional** * **Attempt at introduction and conclusion** |  |
| **Voice**   * Personality * Sense of audience | * **Expressive, engaging, sincere** * **Strong sense of audience** * **Shows emotion: appropriate humor, honest, suspense, or life connections** | * **Appropriate to audience and purpose** * **Writer behind the words comes through** | * **Evident commitment to topic** * **Inconsistent or dull personality** |  |
| **Word Choice**   * Precision * Effectiveness * Imagery | * **Precise, carefully chosen** * **Strong, fresh, vivid images** | * **Descriptive, broad range of words** * **Word choice energizes writing** | * **Language is functional and appropriate** * **Descriptions may be overdone at times** |  |
| **Sentence Fluency**   * Rhythm, flow * Variety | * **High degree of craftsmanship** * **Effective variation in sentence patterns** | * **Easy flow and rhythm** * **Good variety in length and structure** | * **Generally in control** * **Lack variety in length and structure** |  |
| **Conventions**   * Appropriate spelling, caps, punctuation, grammar | * **Exceptionally strong control of standard conventions of writing** | * **Strong control of conventions; errors are few and minor** | * **Control of most writing conventions; occasional errors** |  |