**All-USA Semi-finalist Judging**

In all cases, application meets standards for Content, Clarity, and Correctness as detailed in the EMCC Writing Rubric. Special considerations in ranking the All-USA Semi-Finalist applications include:

1. **“Biography”**

\_\_\_\_\_ Includes significant life events and experiences that give a broader understanding of

what motivates the applicant

\_\_\_\_\_\_Includes descriptions of circumstances of where the applicant “came from”, what the

applicant is currently doing, and what the applicant hopes to accomplish in the future.

1. **“Outside Obligations”**

\_\_\_\_\_ Includes family responsibilities, employment, or other non-volunteer obligations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Does not include campus or community activities included in other sections.

1. **“Short and Long-term Goals”**

\_\_\_\_\_ Addresses both short and long term goals

\_\_\_\_\_ Includes goals in 1) education, 2) career, and 3) service/volunteerism.

1. **“Community Activities and Campus Events”**

\_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrates significant life skills such as leadership, organization, time management,

effective communication, initiative, complexity, and/or identifying and addressing needs

\_\_\_\_\_ Does not include activities included in other sections.

1. **“Optional Addendum”**

*\_\_\_\_\_ Deduction:* Transcript shows a large number of withdrawals or a drop in grades without

adequate explanation

1. **“Essay”**

\_\_\_\_\_ Essay content may be used to differentiate applications based on originality, initiative,

and degree of difficulty, results, and benefit to society.

1. **“Student Assessments”** (Letters of Recommendation)

* Leadership letter

\_\_\_\_\_ Writer is a community college faculty member, administrator, dean, or an

employer/professional who mentored or supervised the applicant during the

endeavor discussed in their scholarship essay

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter directly speaks to the endeavor written about in the essay

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter includes examples of leadership and service involvement and their impact

outside of the classroom

* Academic letter

\_\_\_\_\_ Writer is a community college faculty or administrator who taught or mentored

the applicant

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter includes examples of how the applicant demonstrated in-class academic

progress and excellence

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter describes the academic experience(s) with the applicant