

STAR AWARD – ESSAY GRADING RUBRIC (Printable Version)

1. Personal Background & Family Information — 20 points

Excellent (16–20): Detailed, honest description of upbringing and economic situation.

Good (11–15): Adequate background with some detail.

Fair (6–10): Basic or limited background.

Poor (0–5): Vague or unclear background.

2. Academic Journey & Achievements — 15 points

Excellent (12–15): Strong academic record, achievements, obstacles explained.

Good (8–11): Some academic detail.

Fair (4–7): Minimal academic info.

Poor (0–3): No academic detail.

3. Financial Need & Challenges — 20 points

Excellent (16–20): Clear explanation of financial need.

Good (11–15): Some need explained.

Fair (6–10): Need mentioned vaguely.

Poor (0–5): No clear indication of need.

4. Personal Motivation & Character — 15 points

Excellent (12–15): Strong values, resilience, leadership examples.

Good (8–11): Good traits with limited examples.

Fair (4–7): Generic traits.

Poor (0–3): No insight into character.

5. Community Involvement & Impact — 10 points

Excellent (8–10): Strong volunteering/service.

Good (5–7): Some involvement.

Fair (2–4): Minimal involvement.

Poor (0–1): None.

6. Future Goals & Vision — 10 points

Excellent (8–10): Clear, realistic goals with societal impact.

Good (5–7): Goals present but vague.

Fair (2–4): Unclear goals.

Poor (0–1): No goals.

7. Why They Deserve the Star Award — 10 points

Excellent (8–10): Strong justification.

Good (5–7): Reasonable justification.

Fair (2–4): Weak or vague.

Poor (0–1): No justification.