

\$500 MAEF MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIP

- Instructions, & Rubric -

I. Instructions

For this scholarship application you will answer two short essay prompts. You can choose one prompt from *Set A* before answering the required question in *Set B*. Please follow the requirements detailed below.

- ✓ All responses should be typed.
- ✓ **Together** the essays should not exceed 1000 words (not including titles). There is no minimum length requirement. You may split up the word count evenly or not.
- ✓ Use size 11 or size 12 of a regular, professional font.
- ✓ Margins should be regular, with at least one inch on all sides.
- ✓ Organize your responses into paragraphs as necessary.
- ✓ Include your name and age in one of the upper corners of your first page.
- ✓ Answer each question completely.
- ✓ RESPONSES MUST BE WRITTEN BY THE PERSON APPLYING FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP ONLY

When you are ready to submit your scholarship application to maefinary@gmail.com. The subject of your email should be your name a dash (-) and Merit Scholarship. For example "George Morris – Merit Scholarship." This email must be received by October 30th.

Your written responses will be considered alongside your performance on an exam taken at the Mid-Atlantic Equitation Festival. The applicant that has the highest combined score will win the scholarship. In case applicants perform similarly on the test portion of the scholarship, the highest scoring essay will break the tie.

The exam will be worth 100 points. The value of the written response is 60 points – this score will be doubled and added to the exam score. This is a maximum possible score of 220, with the written section constituting about 57% of the total score.

II. Prompt Options

Set A (Choose One)

- Why did you begin riding? Describe the challenge(s) you have faced in your riding career? Why do you continue to ride despite these challenges?
- Describe an event or memory that helped solidify your passion for riding. Why was this event or memory, in particular, so powerful? How does this event or memory connect to your current goals or achievements?

Set B (Required)

- As we grow, we work to find our place in the world. The least we can hope to do is address a problem that we see. Describe what problem(s) you want to address in your lifetime. This could be small-scale, large-scale, or both. How will this scholarship help you make progress in addressing your chosen problem(s)?

III. Rubric *

This rubric will be used to grade all essay responses. Please note, you are not guaranteed to see a marked rubric for your essays. This rubric is provided to you as a tool to plan, construct, and edit your essays. The reader will read both essays before placing them on the rubric holistically.

Document # 1011

Commented [LM2]:
motivation, thinking beyond themselves, teaching others what you learn,

| | Below Standard | Standard | Above Standard |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Formatting | Few formatting guidelines were followed. Paper is difficult for the reader to process due to the formatting. Word count may be exceeded** 3 points | Most formatting guidelines were followed, but the reader's job was slightly harder by the formatting of the page. Word count is not exceeded at all. 4 points | All formatting guidelines included in information packet were followed. Word count is not exceeded at all. 5 points |
| Conventions | Writing has many distracting errors that significantly affect the clarity of the piece. Further proofreading and revision are necessary. 6 points | Writing contains under five distracting errors that take away from the clarity of the piece. Further proofreading would have been beneficial. 8 points | Writing is virtually free of errors. Any errors in grammar or punctuation are minimal non-distracting. 10 points |
| Organization | The overall piece may seem haphazard or unorganized. Paragraphs are not used when needed. Reader may be left confused due to organization and may need to "jump around" the piece while reading to make meaning. 6 points | The overall piece is organized to guide the reader through the writer's ideas. Individual paragraphs are organized and transitions between paragraphs are present. However, the paragraphs may not build on one another or seem connected. 8 points | The overall piece of writing is very well organized. Paragraphs are used when necessary and the order of topics / ideas addressed adds to the piece's clarity. Each paragraph helps build onto the writer's main purpose. 10 points |
| Completeness of Answer | Large portions of the prompt are not addressed. The writer may have chosen one of the prompt's questions. The answers do not reflect deep thought on the part of the author and may feel "rushed" to the reader. 12 points | Most of the prompt is answered, although writer may not have a sufficient answer for each question. There is an overall sense of completeness, although the answers may not feel "fleshed out" and deeply considered by the writer. 16 points | The entire prompt is addressed completely. The writer may have focused on one question more than the others, but the others are not ignored or skimmed over. Answer shows deep thought. 20 points |
| Communication of Ideas | Ideas expressed may not help the reader know the writer. Perhaps the writing feels stale, dishonest, or misleading. The reader is not convinced that the writer is a good investment for the scholarship. 12 points | Ideas expressed help the reader get to know the writer. The reader may be left asking questions about the writer and their ideas. The reader feels like the scholarship will help the writer work towards their goals. 16 points | When done, the reader feels like they know the writer. Responses feel honest and reflect the uniqueness of the writer. The writer has convinced the reader that this scholarship will be invested well. 20 points |

* In-between category scores are possible (i.e. the reader may assign 9 points in the convention section)

** If word count is exceeded unreasonably, the reader has the right to take away more points than what is displayed in the rubric or discount the essay completely.