

RCDP Scholarship Essay Evaluation Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (5 pts)	Good (4 pts)	Satisfactory (3 pts)	Needs Improvement (1–2 pts)
1. Understanding of Purpose Statement	Essay demonstrates deep understanding of the selected value; clearly articulated and integrated throughout.	Good understanding; connects the statement to personal experiences and future goals.	Some understanding; connection is present but underdeveloped.	Limited or unclear connection to the selected value or purpose statement.
2. Quality of Experience Described	Vivid, specific, and meaningful experience(s) described; strongly illustrates the value in action.	Clear and relevant experience(s); shows how the student aligns with the chosen value.	Somewhat relevant experience(s); general or lacks depth.	Vague or off-topic; lacks clear relevance to the chosen value.
3. Quality of Future Plans	Future goals are specific, inspiring, and clearly tied to the value selected.	Goals are clear and align with the value.	Goals are somewhat vague or only loosely connected.	Future plans are unclear or not meaningfully related to the value.
4. Likelihood of Success	Essay shows strong motivation, resilience, and a clear path forward; very promising.	Student appears motivated and capable; path forward is believable.	Some indicators of success; may need more clarity or planning.	Unclear path forward; limited evidence of readiness or motivation.
5. Writing Quality	Well-organized, free of errors; compelling voice, excellent grammar and style.	Clear and mostly error-free; readable and organized.	Some grammatical or organizational issues, but meaning is clear.	Many errors in grammar/spelling; difficult to follow or lacks structure.

Scoring Guide

- **25 points** = Outstanding candidate
- **20–24 points** = Strong candidate
- **15–19 points** = Moderate candidate
- **Below 15 points** = Needs further consideration