**AFBHS College Essay Rubric 2013-2014**

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|  |  |  | **1** | **2** | **3** | 4 |
| **THEME** | Focus | 1. (6 points) | Does not respond to the prompt. | Attempts broader message. Generally responds to a common app prompt. | Effectively communicates a broader message. Responds to the prompt with focus. | Effectively conveys a broader message. Elaborates fully, while focusing on a single, clear message. |
| Insight | 2.(6 points) | Reveals some vague sense of traits/ values of the essayist; evinces minimal self-reflection | Topic/ event reveals general/ vague traits/ values of the essayist; evinces some self-reflection. | Topic/ event reveals distinct, identifiable traits/ values of essayist; evinces self-reflection. A positive message is communicated to the reader. | Topic/ event reveals the distinct, identifiable and positive character of essayist; evinces self-reflection. A positive message is communicated to the reader in subtle, nuanced, advanced ways. |
| **STYLE** | Style techniques | 3. (4 points) | Includes at least one example of showing not telling. | Includes at least two examples of showing not telling. | Essay is marked by vivid and specific showing not telling. | Leverages purposeful and vivid showing not telling to reveal character or engage the reader. |
| **Language** | Balance | 4. (4 points) | The tone of the essay is either too emotionally charged or too "stiff" given an attempt at professionalism. | Attempts to balance an emotional tone with a professional one, but may overuse emotion or professionalism in one or more places. | The author conveys an intended emotion, while recognizing the professional nature of the essay's purpose and audience. | The author strategically uses language to balance an emotional tone with the professional nature of the essay's purpose and audience. |
| **PROFESSIONALISM** | Spelling & Grammar | 5.  (6 points) | More than three spelling or grammar errors. | Fewer than three spelling and grammar errors. | Entirely free of spelling errors and grammar errors |  |

**Scholar Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Overall Score:**