

TIPS FOR YOUR ESSAY!

There is no word limit per essay, but we strongly recommend that you cover the following points.

- ✓ Be honest and help the person reading the essay understand who you are.
- ✓ Provide details about your hopes and dreams for your future.
- ✓ Explain what will be different in your life if you receive the scholarship.
- ✓ Explain why you are a good candidate to invest the scholarship money in.
- ✓ Tell the committee about your level of commitment to succeed in college and outside of college.
- ✓ Give examples of a time when you have faced a challenge and had a positive outcome.
- ✓ There is no requirement of words per essay, but you should write at least 100 words per essay to provide enough information.

Essay Questions and things to think about:

Describe your educational and career goals. Explain why you chose your intended career.

- What type of work do you want to do when you finish your studies?
- Why? What is it about this work that interests you?
- Does this work require a certificate, a diploma or a two-year degree (Associates) or does it require a four-year degree (Bachelors)?

Describe your past or present involvement in high school, college or community organizations and activities (include volunteer work, elected offices, honors you received, etc).

- Do you help others or volunteer? Think about the organizations you are involved in and out of school, in the community, at your church etc.
- Are you involved in sports?
- If you weren't very involved, don't leave it blank, but explain why you weren't able to be as involved.

Explain why you are applying for a scholarship. Describe your financial need and how a scholarship will assist in helping finance your education. Include any special circumstances you feel warrant special consideration.

- Tell us what types of things you are already paying for and what you anticipate having to pay for in college. Are your parents supporting family members besides you and your brothers and sisters? For example, your grandparents or others. Has your family experienced unusual expenses?
- Do you have a large family or maybe you have more than one person enrolled in college?
- Will your parents be able to help you financially?
- Are you going to have to work to earn money for college while you are attending college?
- Do your parents have unusual circumstances that affect how much they can help you?
- Maybe one of your parents or one of your brothers or sisters is disabled or handicapped?

Explain the ways Riverland is contributing to or will contribute to your success

- Tell us why and how Riverland will help you reach your goals. Why is Riverland the school of your choice? What types of resources or people does Riverland have that will contribute to your success?