Noted below are examples of essay answers written and submitted by scholarship applicants. These examples are for instructional use only and are given as illustrations of what the Gulf Coast State College Scholarship Review and Scoring Committee deem as “high scoring” essay answers and “low scoring” essay answers. As you may or may not know, a major factor in earning a scholarship from the Gulf Coast State College Foundation is how a scoring committee member grades an essay answer using style, grammar and content. It is our hope, that these examples will help scholarship applicants produce higher application scores, thus having better chances of earning a Gulf Coast State College Foundation scholarship. Please note some essay information has been removed due to confidentiality or sensitivity.

(HIGH SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 500 words or less, please describe a personal achievement or your proudest moment.

As a first generation, college student, so far, my proudest moment was when I was accepted into the [REMOVED] program at Gulf Coast State College. Since then, it has been my goal to finish this program with high marks, evident by my strong desire to maintain all A’s in every class I attend. Reflecting back on my initial acceptance into the program it has really driven me further in my ability to learn and retain such valuable career and scholarly information and skills, that will aid me when I complete the program. I am proud of how far I have come, and now that the time of graduating is nearing, my greatest achievement of completing college for the first time in my family and using that time to build my career, will be realized. All with the help of scholarships like these.

(HIGH SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 250 words or less, please tell us why you deserve this scholarship.

My goal with my education is to take what I learn and the portfolio I will develop from the [REMOVED] program and use it to transfer into a film school like the Florida State University College of Motion Picture Arts. This school has an excellent program dedicated to the student’s advancement in the film industry providing hands-on training with the best equipment and professors. My mission after completing school is to be able to amplify my perspective on life through [REMOVED] by working in mainstream media development. We are coming to a point where not enough talented people who have a unique perspective on life get a chance to be a part of the behind-the-scenes and to showcase their creative minds in the film industry. This education will provide me with the confidence, resources, and opportunity needed for me to become the greatest version of myself doing what I love. I’m hoping that you see my vision, even in this short synopsis, of wanting to be a voice in our future digital media content.

(HIGH SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 250 words or less, please tell us why you deserve this scholarship.

I believe I deserve this scholarship because I can help others make a difference while still knowing how to keep myself happy and healthy. I am looking to become a cybersecurity expert. I plan to pursue two separate branches in the cyber world, both of which run rather close together. I want to be a penetration tester (pen tester), which tends to lead to contract work where a certified individual safely hacks businesses when asked by the business. This is done so they can find weaknesses in their security before those weaknesses are exploited by someone with malicious intent. The other branch is to be a cybersecurity engineer, which would lead to more stable work where I was the one designing the security measures for a company to protect the personal information of clients and employees. This position would allow me to do pen testing as little or as much as I wanted. These

two jobs also have the possibility of combining into allowing me into a position like Cybersecurity Analyst after I had enough experience in the field which would allow me to help combat malicious hackers on a more large scale basis.

(HIGH SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 250 words or less, please tell us why you deserve this scholarship.

Why do I deserve this scholarship? I like to believe that deserve stands for doing something meaningful in return for a reward. My work ethic in school and for life is rooted in the moral that one reaps they sow. In college I have learned many academic and real-life skills. It has not always been easy. Many times, it has been really hard. Even though I love most of my classes, some have brought me to tears. However, I am glad that I overcame my challenges and made it this far. When I first started college, I had no idea what I wanted to study. Now I am on my way to earning my certificate in Cybersecurity and will be continuing toward an Associate of Arts degree. I also recently became a member of Phi Theta Kappa and maintain a 3.76 grade point average. I have been fortunate to receive scholarships in the past. The acknowledgement of my hard work has helped me pay for classes so I can focus on my studies. A scholarship for next year would help me pay for tuition and books to continue my career path. I also hope to grow my experience with an internship, making me more marketable in a competitive field. This scholarship will also help me get more involved in community activities, showing that I can give back what so many have provided me. By receiving this scholarship, I hope to return the benefit to my community with hard work.

(LOW SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 500 words or less, please describe a personal achievement or your proudest moment.

Getting into [REMOVED] program has been the biggest achievement of mine. I also am proud that I have been able to keep my honor status.

(LOW SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 250 words or less, please tell us why you deserve this scholarship*.*

I deserve this scholarship because I am a hard working [REMOVED]. I dedicate most of my time in the class room and the rest in the weight room and the [REMOVED]. I've worked hard to maintain a 3.0gpa and to be the best Leader I can be in the class room and on the field.

(LOW SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 250 words or less, please tell us why you deserve this scholarship.

I believe I deserve this scholarship because I work hard to complete my classes and assignments. I've persisted with my classes through hardships that we've faced as a student body these last few years and continued to put forth my best efforts.

(LOW SCORING) ESSAY QUESTION: In 250 words or less, please tell us why you deserve this scholarship.

I think it be a honor to have help with paying for school because of now I'm paying for most of it out pocket And it helps me be able to attend college