



ALAMO
COLLEGES
FOUNDATION

Scholarship Application Essay Scoring Rubric

Please assign two separate scores for each essay, each on a scale of 1–5: one score for Content and one score for Effort, Quality, and Grammar.
**Grammar should not be considered when determining the Content score.*

Prompt 1

Describe your academic and career goals — explain what you are studying, why you chose this path, and your plans after completing your credential (for example employment options or additional education plans).

Evaluate the essay content **and assign a score of 1–5** based on the extent to which the response demonstrates:

- Clear educational and career goals
- Motivation and direction

Evaluate the essay Effort, Quality & Grammar and **assign a score of 1–5** based on the extent to which the response demonstrates:

- Clear organization and flow
- Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and attention to detail
- Demonstrates effort

Prompt 2

Describe something you are proud of — for example, employment, service, school, family involvement, participation in organizations, an event, a recognition, or a challenge you have overcome so far.

Evaluate the essay content **and assign a score of 1–5** based on the extent to which the response demonstrates:

- Resilience and problem solving
- Personal growth and reflection
- Authenticity of story

Evaluate the essay Effort, Quality & Grammar and **assign a score of 1–5** based on the extent to which the response demonstrates:

- Clear organization and flow
- Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and attention to detail
- Demonstrates effort

Score	Description
5 – Excellent	Exceptionally strong in all areas; exceeds expectations
4 – Strong	Above average; well-developed responses
3 – Satisfactory	Meets basic expectations; adequate but could be more detailed
2 – Developing	Incomplete or unclear; lacks depth or organization
1 – Limited	Minimal effort; unclear or off topic; response is a few words

Statement on AI (for Reviewers) - Students have been provided guidance regarding AI use:

Students may use AI tools for brainstorming, outlining, or editing. However, all submitted essays must be the student’s own work. The strongest essays are authentic, reflect the student’s voice and perspective, and share meaningful personal experiences. While writing quality is considered, the message and authenticity are most important.

Please note that we cannot systematically verify whether a student has used AI. Therefore, AI use should not be considered as part of the scoring process.

You may have access to tools that can verify AI use, we ask that you use your own sense of identifying the students’ voice in writing.