

## Darrell Bramhall Youth Scholarship

The ANDRC Scholarship Committee has been awarding scholarships for several years. The process has been refined in order to make the selection process a fair and equitable one. Each year we encourage our committee members to provide feedback on the application or selection process in an attempt to improve.

The first year there were concerns about bias based on gender, or the area of the country the applicants were from. To place these concerns at ease, it was decided that the committee chairperson would change their status. The chairperson doesn't figure into the rating matrix unless there is a tie. The chairperson also uses a lot of correction fluid to blot out names, addresses, club affiliations and the like.

This led to concerns from the committee that the applications were hard to read because of words or entire sentences being blotted out. I would like to present some ideas that will help each applicant present his or her application in the best light.

- ❑ If at all possible - use a computer or typewriter. Hand written answers on the application can be very hard to read.
- ❑ Remember - you are "selling" yourself to someone who probably doesn't know you. You want to provide **pertinent** information without boring someone with tons of useless information. An example would be..."I play in the high school band. We have won many contests including (applicant lists 5 or 6 local or county band contests), (applicant lists 4 or 5 regional contests), and we have won two consecutive state titles." There is too much information in that sentence. A better way of writing this sentence would be..."I play in the high school band. Our band has won several local and regional contests, along with winning two consecutive state titles." The band's accomplishments have been stated, but only the most important information is stated precisely - **winning two consecutive state titles**.
- ❑ Past applicants that have been successful are ones that used good spelling and grammar skills. In order to be successful in college one must say what they mean, and mean what they say. You will have to do this in writing most of the time.
- ❑ Some of the questions on the application require you to write your name, address, schools attended, extra curricular activities (school and non-school activities), clubs you belong to and the like. There will be times that using a proper name will have to be used. However, there are other times that **not** using a proper name will benefit you. One such case would be when listing various clubs that you have belonged to - don't use the proper name of the club. An example would be..."I have been a member of the Union County 4H club for 4 years." Instead..."I have been a member of the local 4H club for 4 years." By changing **Union County** to **local**, the 4H club becomes generic and doesn't have to be blotted out. That will make the application read much easier. Any time you can make a response generic - do so!

I hope these hints will be helpful to those who send us applications. Pay attention to details. A bad first impression is as powerful as a good first impression.

For The Committee  
Roy Ludwig