

	Student name	Email	School district	
1	Justin King	jaking829@gmail.com	RUSD	
2	Grace Roberts	gracehoberts00@gmail.com	RUSD	
3	Davina Akinyi	davinaakinyi524@rusdlearns.net	RUSD	
4	Emilio Manzano	emiliomanzanthebest@gmail.com	Alvord	
5	Emi Hinosawa	hinosawa.emi@gmail.com	RUSD	
6	Donvan Frazier	don7229fraz@gmail.com	Val Verde	
7	Natalia Gomez	gomeznatalia733@yahoo.com	Alvord	
8	Karen Penaloza	karenpenaloza07@gmail.com	RUSD	
9	Robert Blanco	robertblanco70@yahoo.com	RUSD	
10	Sophia Esparza	soisabella12@gmail.com	RUSD	
11	Chloë Divers	diverschloe272@icloud.com	Alvord	
12	Destini Egan	desegan15@gmail.com	RUSD	
13	Andrew Romo	romo.andrew@rocketmail.com	Alvord	
14	Maya Moore	mayamoore243@rusdlearns.net	RUSD	
15	Daniel Ledbetter	danielledbetter312@rusdlearns.net	RUSD	
16	Bianca Salazar	bsala02@outlook.com	RUSD	
17	Katherine Martinez	katherineemartinez01@gmail.com	Alvord	
18	Yosola Olakunle	yosolaolakunle@gmail.com	Alvord	
19	Mia Baltierra	mbaltierrandhs20@gmail.com	Notre Dame	
20	Victoria Kaufman	victoriakaufman82@gmail.com	Unknown	
21	Anna Lee	anna424lee@gmail.com	RUSD	
22	Samantha Markson	samanthamarkson856@rusdlearns.net	RUSD	
23	Valeria Ramirez	02001vale@gmail.com	RUSD	
24	Lauren Pendergast	laurenprendergast583@rusdlearns.net	RUSD	
25	Shelby Permann	shelbypermann@yahoo.com	RUSD	
26	Maanasi Kademani	mKay320454@gmail.com	RUSD	
27	Aiyanna Nevarez	aiyannanevarez777@gmail.com	RUSD	
28	Jocelyn Quiroz	jocelynquiroz1211@icloud.com		
29	Noah Flores	noahflores730@gmail.com	Alvord	
30	Aries Manriquez	am1205761@ndhsriverside.org		Unable to open
31	Yamin Mazumder	yaminamazumder@gmail.com	RUSD	
32	Reilly Jimenez	reillyo718@aol.com	Encore	

RUSD

Justin King

Cover letter

Human Relations Commission
3900 Main Street
7th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached my creative piece, which is a poem, related to the mission statement of the HRC.

If I am chosen as the winner of the scholarship, I plan to use the money towards the cost of books, tuition, and other miscellaneous college fees and expenses. I will be attending The Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA this fall.

Since the college of my choice is out of state, the prize money could definitely be used to cover any outstanding cost(s) pending my financial aid packet does not. I was also recently informed that I would have to pay for the Penn State Student Health Plan out of pocket, as it was decided by the university to not include it in the tuition bill for this coming year and could not be covered by financial aid. I will need it because the health insurance carried by my parents here in California will not transfer to the state of Pennsylvania. Therefore, the prize money could definitely be used for that expense.

Thank you.

Justin King

Creative Writing Piece

Community Relations Commission known as formerly

Riverside's Human Relations Commission advocates for equal opportunity.

Human relations cover a multitude of personal interaction,

Engaging in activities to eliminate prejudice based on sex, race, color, religion in order to bring satisfaction.

The HRC is known to encourage educational programs,

Empowering communities and institutions, not running a scam.

Seeking equitable opportunities in health, housing, and employment,

The HRC strives to foster respect between people and life's pleasures, no time for being stringent.

Respecting and supporting the law,

This group of people cares, performs their job well, and will leave you in amazement and awe.

Knowing how people in Riverside feel,

The Human Relations Commission listens, empathizes, and understands their struggles and keeps it real.

Eradicating discrimination due to gender identity and gender expression,

The Human Relations Commission strongly upholds its' goals and its' distinct, defined mission.

RUSD

Grace Roberts

Cover Letter

Hello,

My name is Grace Roberts and I am a senior who will be graduating Martin Luther King High School this May! I will be attending Vanguard University and running for the track and field program there in the fall. This scholarship would mean so much to me because finances have always been a struggle for my family. My parents are divorced and both work hard to support her me and my siblings, but things can get hard when paying for the expenses of three high schoolers. If I won this scholarship, I would use the money to pay of the rest of my tuition. The university has generously provided a good amount financial aid already, however the remaining amount is still a big number for my family. The scholarship will help me complete my dream of attending a four year university that wishes nothing but success for me and wants me to find my purpose and live it out for Christ. Thank you so much for your consideration of my entry, have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,

Grace Roberts

Grace Roberts

Creative Writing Piece

"What I Imagine His Perspective Was Like"
A soundless world
It's what I live in
Out of the corner of my eye I see the smoke of the starter gun
Here at the Raincross Tradition City Meet
"Check in for your number, and spikes on soon"
Coach signs to me
I walk over to the check in tent
Had to point to my name so they gave me the right number
They don't know sign language
But that's ok, I didn't expect them to
Now off to my 100 meter race, I have to finish my warm up
I see a older man yelling something at a group of boys
"Last heat for the small schools"
I couldn't tell what he was saying
I am putting on my spikes and I get one more stride in
Unaware my race was on the line
Gun goes up,bang, and they are off
My teammate and I now walk over to the start line
They have moved on to the big schools, we were a small school
We missed our 100
What do we do now?
Confused and upset we walk away
No one thought to tell the deaf kids their race was on the line
Because everyone else was hearing
I will just have to be ready for my next race in time

RUSD

Davina Akinyi

Cover Letter

I understand the value of education because of my parents. From a young age, my parents encouraged me to pursue education due to the opportunities it provided and because the education they received was limited compared to mine. Aside from my values, I am very passionate about Chemistry. I have always been interested in working in that field ever since I was in Middle School. My strong curiosity about that subject area allowed me to participate in Science Olympiad - where I competed in different events that tested my knowledge of science and math. Competing in Science Olympiad opened my eyes up to different areas that involve Chemistry and continue to motivate me to pursue the field as a possible career choice. In the future, I hope to pursue my dream of working in the pharmaceutical industry or the medical field.

Davina Akinyi

Creative Writing Piece

Flee to the shadows,
Seeking my wings of freedom,
Fixed to the grim past.
Profit or prosper,
Black or white, does it differ?
I see only man.
In order to soar,
Chains of the past be broken,
Lest be stuck in fright.
We mustn't quarrel
We mustn't dispute or slay,
But love each other.
We are of the same
Blood, We must be united
Together as one.

Alvord
Emilio Manzano
Cover Letter

Creative Writing Scholarship Competition

Dear Human Relations Commission,

I was excited to see your creative writing scholarship competition. I believe that these opportunities to test our capabilities in exchange for something that we can use in the future are incredible.

What I want to achieve if I receive this award, is to continue with my studies, and to help mitigate the costs of my studies for my father, since he only has a job, and we are three siblings. By having this award, it will help me accomplish my dream to be a professional and with my title to serve the people who are in need. To not only generating awareness in the new generations but also accompanying them in an acculturation process that will make the society manages to coexist without violence.

I have attached my essay and I hope I can be one of the selected ones.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Best,

Emilio Manzano
10593 Bonner St
Riverside, CA 92505
(951)476-6611
emiliomanzаноthebest@gmail.com

Emilio Manzano

Creative writing piece

It all started with the American dream, but behind that dream lies a reality that is hard to deny. I come from a country that is well known for its biodiversity and variety of natural resources, happiness, and good people, but it's also haunted by a history of violence that terrorizes thousands of Colombians.

My father was in the Colombian Army for more than 20 years of service, leaving my mother as the head of the family, it was difficult to grow up without a father figure during the course of my childhood, but at the same time I was proud of my father because of what he did for us and his country, after his retirement, his presence began to be noticed more at home, everything went wonderfully, as we would say in my country "Todo era color rosa." Until violence knocked on our door.

Due to the violence my family and I had to leave all our life behind. My whole family including my father had been threatened to death, because of this my uncle paid with his life, my brothers and I didn't have another option than to leave our studies, friends, and memories behind, and leave without looking back to an unknown place, whose language was unknown to us.

But all these obstacles have served as motivation, motivation to keep fighting for my dreams, now I'm able to speak a new language, have new friends, and new stories, because each place and each person has a story within himself.

One of the best things that could happen to me was to find refuge in Dreamers and dance, due to these programs my life here has been unchallenging and painless to adjust.

RUSD

Emi Hinosawa

Cover Letter

28790 Maltby Avenue
Moreno Valley, CA 92555
May 15, 2019
Human Relations Commission
hrc@riversideca.gov

To HRC:

I am writing to apply for the HRC Creative Writing Scholarship of 2019. Currently, I am a senior in highschool who is planning on attending Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. If I won the prize money, it would go towards helping me pay for college where currently I am officially Undecided in major. However, I am planning on trying to double major in Japanese studies and Environmental Science because I love learning about various cultures, and being able to understand how things like agriculture and the environment exist within that culture.

Additionally, I feel it is important to gain a wider understanding of the various intersecting ways in which different cultures can approach topics like sexuality, science, and poverty because it is false to assume that one approach is the correct one for every single society.

For this scholarship, I have written a slam poem titled Diversity about the rising intolerance in today's political climate towards certain communities. In this poem, it is more specifically about the LGBTQ+ community and the underlying poverty which is prevalent among many disenfranchised communities. It is a call towards not only tolerance, but acceptance and a desire to understand so that different groups group can work together to build a better present for the children of tomorrow.

I hope to be considered for this scholarship. I am available by contact through phone (951) 567-9950 or by email at hinosawa.emi@gmail.com . I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Emi Hinosawa

Diversity by Emi Hinosawa

Are we people who thrive on brutality?

I don't know about you

but it's starting to seem true

Are people just animals in a petting zoo?

It shouldn't matter if you're gay, straight, or bi

Or anything else

It's quite alright

But even if you're innocent you pay the price

For being something different

Even though you're innocent

It's not like anyone's Maleficent

Because even though we're dissonant

We live together so isn't it

Natural to support one another

Emi Hinosawa

Creative Writing Piece

Like we are each other's mothers
I don't understand
Our hate breeds nothing but an ignorant brand
Of brutality and band-aids
That hurt when ripped off
Because all we do is scoff
And say "fuck off"
We think people's identities are fake
And like a broken heart
It aches and it aches
You think you know me better than I know myself
But I'm not a product stored on a shelf
You can't judge me without understanding
But even still
You're so demanding
Claiming that I'm wrong even though I don't believe in your religion
Because we're different
But both innocent
With wide views of the world that stem from our thoughts
And it's not--
Weird to be seeing something different
Because you do you
And I do me
And then we look and we see--
Through each other's glasses
Understanding masses
Of people together
In the streets
And it's pretty neat
But still we judge
Like a worn rug
Assuming people are nothing but thugs
You still think gender and sexuality is a binary
But it's not
So why are we defining things like blue and pink
Into a box where only certain people think
Like a rainbow love is a spectrum
You could be monogamous, polyamorous, or aromantic
Love doesn't have a strict definition
It's a blurred line with sections within it
We live in a world where diversity is praised
But our world grows narrower as we age

There are groups of people that are ignored
It's not because people think they're a bore
But rather-- It's because they don't understand
They try to cut us off from the marching band
And they laugh at us struggling
To climb up the ladder
For financial stability
They tell us, "Why should it matter?"
It matters because America is the land of the free
But still we're trapped and many people can't breathe
Dead in the water
Choked by the air
Screaming out we've always been here
Praying, praying for a breath of fresh air
That you won't share because you are scared
You're scared that we'll change the way you think the world works
You're scared of the places that we lurk
So you refuse people their equal and equitable rights
Then turn around and say "Goodnight"
Even in the early hours of the morning light.

Val Verde

Donovan Frazier

Creative Writing Piece

Flow...Like Water

I will Flow...like Water
Always moving along
Down the winding rivers
Wishing my life is long

I drift with this body
Through the channels of Earth
Down the river of time
The delta being my birth

Sometimes I wish I could pause
Stop to take in the view
Step on the bed with my paws
Appreciate life for a few

To watch the sun rise
Viewing with my family
Seeing what lies ahead
Staying and living happily

But I keep on flowing
I can't pause what's fated
Got to keep on knowing
Time can't be debated

Now I just drift
Just floating along
Working my shift
Sailing the river headlong

Living like the billions
That came before me
Float the path of trillions
The future that's coming to be

But that's not my flow
I don't want a nine-to-five
A gallery of art to show

Is how I'll survive

I only hope to sail
Maybe down that stream
Maybe it's a wall I can scale
Land? What a dream

I will flow...like water
Down the Earth's arteries
Letting water take me
Hopefully to live in the artistries

Background on Flow...like Water

Donovan Frazier

Cover Letter

This work is a formal poem consisting of three stresses per line and an ABAB rhyme scheme. The main theme of the poem revolves around the persona finding their place in the world as they travel along the river of time.

As for how I feel about the poem, I like its theme and what it is attempting to achieve. The flow of the words like the flow of water is constant. Lines flow from one to the other like how a stream flows from a lake to an ocean.

As of right now, I don't have any plans for this work in particular. I may write other poems with the same metric style as this poem and continue on to explain the life of the persona. Each of the poems may be a specific event with each of the poems leading to a catharsis for the persona about what his or her life means to them.

The inspiration for this work came from Bruce Lee's famous quote "Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless, like water. If you put water into a cup, it becomes the cup. You put water into a bottle and it becomes the bottle. You put it in a teapot it becomes the teapot. Now, water can flow or it can crash. Be water my friend." As he says, the persona will be like water and flow but in the poem, down the river of time. He or she won't flow through the air in a karate kick like Bruce Lee. That is a different type of flow.

For the scholarship, I will use the money to pay for textbooks and classes in college. I am a high school senior from Rancho Verde High School. I am also a part of the Middle College High School Program at Moreno Valley College, a Riverside City College District school. This fall, I am going to UCR to study creative writing. My main career goal is to publish my own books and become a successful author. Part of that goal is to create books that all act as something unique from any other type of book around.

Thank you for this opportunity to apply for this scholarship.

Alvord

Natalia Gomez

Cover Letter

Natalia Gomez

May 19, 2019

Cover Letter

I have started to look for scholarships early into my junior year because I knew my parents are no going to be able to help me with any of my college expenses since we are a low income family. I am prepared to take full responsibility to pay for education so I have been looking for jobs but it's not enough. I am relying on scholarships or a full ride to go to the college of my dreams and prove everyone that doubted me wrong. I want to make sure my hard work pays off and money isn't going to stop me from finishing my goal of becoming a teacher and helping the next generations.

Natalia Gomez

Creative Writing Piece

Natalia Gomez

HRC Scholarship entree

Alvord Unified School District

May 15, 2019

The US may seem perfect to others but not in my eyes. Everything has flaws and I learned about its imperfections like racism and discrimination, the hard way. It served as motivation to prove everyone who didn't believe in me wrong. I'm thankful for all the opportunities America has offered me, but that doesn't make the discrimination that my family and I have been through acceptable. I have many stories of my parents being looked down upon because of their race and their broken english, but the following instance angered me the most since it happened at a school in which the next generation is being shaped.

It was a regular weekday when I walked home from school to see my mom crying in the kitchen. Worried I asked her what was wrong and she didn't respond as she doesn't like showing her emotions. I didn't think much of it other than stress. Later in the afternoon she came up to me and asked if I could register my siblings for the next school year since it was the first year that the enrollment process was online which my mom was clueless about. As I was teaching her, she started to tell me what had been the reason for her crying. She said that she had questions about the new online registrations so she went to the schools front office. My mother explained with tears in her eyes that when she walked in she tried to ask for more information but since she

can't speak english fluently she didn't know how to properly explain herself. She was told by the workers in the front office to wait until they weren't busy. My mom didn't think much of it and waited but as other moms walked in and receiving immediate help she realized what had happened and simply left because she was too scared to stand up for herself. My blood boiled as I imagined her waiting for help that was never intended to be given even when there was a translator at the school.

Growing up the firstborn of immigrant parents, I got to see discrimination first hand and sadly it became as reality that I had to accept. However recently with more people coming together to fight for equal rights like the HRC's mission, I can speak up about my experiences with discrimination and be encouraged rather than criticize. I won't stay quiet anymore because some racist states that complaining about the ways I've been discriminated because of my race while living in the US makes me ungrateful for all the opportunities this country has handed me.

RUSD
Karen Peñaloza
Cover Letter

HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION
Creative Writing Scholarship

CONTACT

3916 Jackson Street
Riverside, CA 92503
karenpenaloza07@gmail.com
(951) 452-6943

May 22, 2019

Dear Human Relations Commission,

My name is Karen Peñaloza and I am pleased to be applying for this scholarship which I am in desperate need of. I come from a single mother household and as the oldest of four, I feel that it is my responsibility to take as much of the financial burden off of my family as possible. I see how difficult it is for my mother to make ends meet, and I do not intend on asking for help in regards to paying my college tuition.

If I were to receive this scholarship, I would use it to help pay for my tuition. One of my greatest fears is not being able to afford going to college at all. I immigrated to the U.S. to live a life full of better opportunities, and I want to prove that I am worth all of my mother's struggles by pursuing a higher education. Any help at all is help, and I would be very appreciative to receive this scholarship and use it as a contribution towards my freshmen year tuition at UC Berkeley.

Sincerely,

Karen Peñaloza

Karen Peñaloza

Creative Writing Piece

Karen Peñaloza

Humans Relations Commission

Creative Writing Scholarship

Loud and Proud

My mother and I immigrated to the U.S. when I was very young so that I could be presented with opportunities that Mexico could not possibly offer. While I am not ashamed of my background, it does require me to work harder to earn recognition. In fact, at times it can be very discouraging to know that many of my native-born peers are more easily presented with better opportunities.

I know what it is like to be a part of a minority group, and it has influenced me to accept everyone for who they are. People can be cruel. There have been multiple times when my classmates have jokingly called me a “wetback” or tease me about getting deported. It breaks my heart to know that people can joke so easily about such serious things. I can only imagine how poorly others are treated, but one thing I know is that I always speak up for what is right. I do not allow others to be bullied because of something that is out of their control. I believe that each and every one of us has a purpose and that we have the capacity to make this world a greater place for everyone.

The Humans Relations Committee gives people hope. It is something much greater than a city organization; it is an opportunity for people to feel more welcomed in their own home. Everyone should be provided with an equal opportunity to do something great with their life, and the HRC works to provide that opportunity. I have been very fortunate to grow up in a city where people work to eliminate discrimination and am very fortunate to continue an education at UC Berkeley, one of the most civically engaged universities. I will work to educate myself more on issues that have an impact on my society and I hope to become more civically active to provide others with the same equal opportunity that I was given.

RUSD

Robert Blanco

Cover Letter

Robert Blanco

Cover Letter

If I were to get money from the Creative Writing Scholarship I would of course use the money for educational purposes. With it, it would help me pay for classes and books that I would need. This money could save a lot of stress without having to worry about paying for more than I need to. The prize money could also help in the future for when I would also need to pay for other books or classes.

Robert Blanco

Creative Writing Piece

HRC Mission Statement

In our society today people experience injustices and unequal opportunities that may occur because of their gender, race, religion etc. The list could go on which shows how many injustices that most people in a multicultural society could be discriminated against. These individuals or groups face discrimination and only want to eliminate what people go against them for. They want to be able to contribute to communities and institutions without having them feel as if there is a bias against them because they don't fit into the norm as the other majority of people around. In this year and time that we're living people need to accept how things are changing and with more and more individuals being open about themselves could cause controversial talk.

There could be many things that these groups could bring into their community but due to not fitting into how society "should" be, it makes them not want to act on their good intentions because the people that do discriminate against some type or group of people want everyone to conform into a society that they believe is right. These people do not believe that people who are not like them or "normal" to society do not understand that they just want ensured equality and to be embraced as full members of society. They also just want to be able to feel safe in their own homes, at work, and out in every community as everyone else does.

A group of people that mainly feels this way is the LGBTQ community. There is so much hatred out there for them just because of their choosing of sexuality. People should not be judged by what interests them but only actions they do and what they could possibly contribute. People need to realize now in this generation that all people are equal and deserves a world that gives everyone the fundamental fairness and give everyone the same equality. In this world, what we

need to do is get rid of discrimination and to give everyone single person a same equal fair chance that anybody could do regardless of what in life they choose to be or might not have been able to make choice for themselves at all. Living life is what were were born to do and there should not be anybody able to stop that, we need to be able to live a life where we build up who we want to be without any judgement.

Sophia Esparza

Cover Letter

Sophia Esparza

Email: Soisabella12@gmail.com Phone: (951) 250-0055

John W. North High School, Senior

HRC's Creative Writing Scholarship

To whom it may concern,

For the next four years of my life, I will be moving across the country. The east coast will present many opportunities, this is both exciting and terrifying. Truthfully, I have no idea what to expect, besides preparing myself for actual snow and not having a mexican hole-in the-wall within a five mile radius.

Moving to the east coast also mean new everything. I can't drive my bed to Massachusetts, nor can I fly my wardrobe with me on a plane. Most importantly, I won't have the same resources as I do here, one being our trusty family laptop. I am unable to take this with me to the east coast because of its need here on the west. My sister and my mom both rely on the laptop to complete schoolwork and pay bills, and my mom can't afford to buy one for me.

The money earned by this scholarship will go towards assisting me in purchasing a new laptop to aid me in my endeavors in the east. It will be integral in my college experience in aiding me with schoolwork, communication with my family, and other necessities. Ultimately, this laptop provides a connection between me and my education, in my overall pursuit for a higher education.

Sophia Esparza

Sophia Esparza

Creative Writing Piece

Sophia Esparza

it all begins the same,

we stumble with our first steps,

and stutter out our first words

our clumsy hands discovered the world around us

touching, learning, and discovering

we dreamed to the same stars

and danced under the same sun

and talked to the same moon

in all the ways we are drawn together

we must remember

the words we stutter out are different

our tongues don't make the same sounds

the steps we take are not down the same path

our feet protected differently from the baked earth

we do not dream the same things

celebrate, dance, or laugh the same ways

our hands are our own,

built to shape this earth differently

to mold our own destinies

to create

to inspire

to learn

to live

to overcome

to empower

built from the same atoms, but challenged to create something new

Chloe Divers

Cover Letter

Cover Letter:>>

Hello, my name is Chloë Divers

I am entering my poem in hopes of earning money towards pursuing a career as an actor. I have been involved in theatre programs for the past nine years, and truly I am never happier than when I am on stage. I want to attend a college that will help me further develop my acting skills (my top pick would be CalArts) and from there go on to find job opportunities within the industry. I have written my poem about the struggles I have faced growing up LGBT+ and the pain of losing my close friend and first girlfriend at 14. I hope you enjoy my poem, thank you for your time.

Chloe Divers

Creative Writing Piece

Poem:>>

Warm water rushed up the bubblegum walls of a room I called home to the age of 14 Ethereal creatures, niveous nothings Colubrine eyes staring soullessly forward Waiting, wading into water Snatching up the shattered dreams we lost in stained-up carpets On beige floors where I slept Christmas Eve, a friend left red crayons and redder eyes when she was gone Red lipstick, red faces, red coats in the closet remind me to breathe and forget what I know Forget what I am, when I sit in still silence Strong women, struck bloody, clutch small silver shapes in their manicured hands Out of fear that corrodes, that eats away the kindness of a pounding heart Out of will to love a martyr, when her words were blasphemy I open my eyes to see a serpent staring back A drowned, decaying face in a pool of molten silver on the wall I act as a mortician, painting over lifeless eyes until they love again the world that has been robbed from them I fear you will forgive me I wish the world will wake to hear you preach with breathless lungs about their hand in your life's end And someday I will scream back to your ears long since decayed to say simply I love you

Destini Egan
Creative Writing Piece
For the Love of Humanity

Equality, that is the goal but achieving the goal is a harder feat.
People are out there are fighting, can't they see we are the same?
We may look different on the outside, but on the inside, we are one and the same.
Discrimination is everywhere and we must destroy it before it destroys us.
People must realize that we are all humans
We are all the same below the surface.
We are humans with no humanity,
There must be a change!
Justice will prevail and there will be equal opportunities for everyone,
But only if we first look deep and change the ugliness we see within.
To begin, we can start a movement by sprinkling a little kindness!
Sprinkle a little kindness to your friend, sprinkle a little kindness to your neighbor,
Sprinkle a little kindness to a stranger, it does not matter who it is for –
What matters is showing someone you care
Because some people don't know how it feels to be loved – some never have.
It is our moral duty to show love and compassion to others – to show some humanity!
Show your humanity by reaching out to others:
Pick them up when they are down,
Feed them when they are hungry,
And give them a warm smile when all they see is glares.
Showing kindness only takes one small gesture,
But that gesture can teach others how to change the world.
Let kindness overpower all evil in this world and change it – forever.

Sanchez, Xavier

From: Sanchez, Xavier
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 12:42 PM
To: am1205761@ndhsriverside.org
Subject: Human Relations Commission Creative Writing Scholarship

Hello,

Thank you for your participation in the Creative Writing Scholarship.

The following are required from you to be eligible for a scholarship:

1. Please resubmit your creative writing piece and cover letter in PDF format.
2. What school district are you from?

The first and second place of the scholarship will be announced at the Human Relations Commission on Thursday June 27th at the Art Pick Council Chambers located at 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 at 6:00 pm. You are welcome to attend if you would like.

Regards,

Xavier Sanchez
City of Riverside
Office of the Mayor, Intern
Main: 951.826.5551
RiversideCA.gov

Lauren Prendergast
Ramona High School Junior
4898 Appleton Street
laurenprendergast583@rusdlearns.net

June 10, 2019
Ms. Elizabeth Coon
Riverside Human Relations Commission
3900 Main St. 7th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522
(951) 826-5551

Dear Ms. Coon,

It came to my attention a few days ago that your organization was offering a scholarship for high school juniors and seniors to enter a creative writing piece that coincides with the Human Relations Commission's mission statement to promote equity, diversity, and equal opportunity. What called my attention was not the scholarship money, or the content of the scholarship requirements, but instead it was the mission statement of the HRC.

To give slight background about myself, I am a fifteen year old, incoming junior at Ramona High School, and I was born and raised in Riverside, California. I identify as a gender fluid lesbian, and have spent my childhood in a very conservative Christian household. With a history of being taught to hate these large aspects of what make me who I am, knowing that an organization like yours exists to promote equality in the community I have grown up in has brought a new sense of strength and solidarity to my mindset.

However, coming from this kind of background, I also understand what going through the process of coming out can do to an individual, especially when they feel isolated and uncared for. These kinds of pressure are commonly known to lead to the development of mental illnesses in teenagers, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and suicidal thoughts and tendencies. With this in mind, if I was to be awarded the scholarship money, I would use it to establish an online community for LGBT+ teenagers in the Inland Empire. I would start by using some of the funds to purchase a laptop computer for myself to start an educational page for the families and friends of members of the community on how to best support their loved ones. Then, from there I would establish a weekly meeting group for LGBT+ teens where we could join together and discuss issues in our lives and assure each other that we aren't alone in our experiences. I would like it to occur in a city park that is accessible to vast parts of the community so that more lives have the potential to be touched.

I understand that my intentions with the scholarship funds target a small portion of the community when you look at the city of Riverside as a whole, but I also must acknowledge how close my intentions sit to my own heart. I truly do feel a burning passion to help those who are going through similar experiences as I have. I sincerely hope that you consider my proposal for this scholarship to aid Riverside as a community.

Sincerely,
Lauren Prendergast

June 10, 2019

In This City (a spoken word poem)

Lauren Prendergast
Ramona High School Junior
4898 Appleton Street
laurenprendergast583@rusdlearns.net

Riverside. In this city, there is a population of 327, 728 people.

This city spans 81.54 square miles.

It is not hard to believe when someone says they feel they can get lost in a city of this magnitude.

But Here.

Here in this city, we do things differently.

In this city, you are never lost.

In this city, home is wherever your feet hit the pavement.

Home is where you are with your neighbors.

Where you friends become your family.

In this city, our strength is found in lifting others up.

We are made whole in our brokenness.

In this city, life doesn't stop when the lights go down.

We flourish in the darkness, just as we do in the light.

In this city, we understand that everybody has a past.

Your past does not define who you are.

In this city it's okay to let go of what is holding you back.

You can move forward from those things that drag you down here. It's okay.

In this city, you are who you are.

We celebrate our differences, even if we don't understand them to their full extent.

In this city, "Love is love is love is love is love is love is love is love,
cannot be killed or swept aside,"

We love who we love because love is what we do.

It doesn't take long to see that in our streets.

We accept our differences, and move forward as brothers.

As sisters of a revolution far greater than ourselves.

We stand for the change we see necessary to improve the lives of those around us.

We look to our future with hope for diversity.

We change today with passion about equality.

We stand on the same fronts knowing that we are United under one cause.

And divided is the only way we will ever fall.

Aiyanna Nevarez
RUSD

Little Mouse

Little mouse
Where did you go?
In the corner of the house?
Why did you go?
To find that white blouse?

Little mouse
Where do you go to hide away, to run away, to throw it all away?
Why do you go when you have others who are there to help
Who want to help you

Little mouse
Your skin was softer than a cloud and whiter than a rose
Confidence was impossible to break, like trying to grab water
A heart bigger than the highest mountain
Your selfishness as low as the deepest part of the ocean
Soft spoken yet your words were so strong
A smile wider than the Great Wall of China
A soul so pure and a mind so consumed with the nature to save all
So why little mouse, do you hide when you're in trouble?

Little mouse
No matter how small, you still can't walk through walls
No matter how tall, you can't crawl hoping you see what everyone else sees
So let it be

Little mouse
You're not alone
Many are feeling just the way you are
Others all hiding what they really feel
Little mouse
Others understand you and how you feel
None are here to judge
Little mouse, we are all like you

I plan to use the money to help pay for my trips to visit colleges that are not close to Riverside County such as Northern California. My goal is to become a detective so the money would help me further accomplish that goal by helping me pay for camps that will prepare me for that and classes such as computer classes with the rise of cyber crimes it will help me gain a better knowledge on how to use computers.

Cover Letter

Andrew Romo
Riverside
8720 Sylvan Dr
ZIP: 92503

June 9th, 2019

Human Relations Commission
3900 Main St. 7th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522


Dear Human Relations Commission,

In the fall semester, I will be attending the University of California Riverside. I will be studying biomedical engineering at the Marian and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering. Through the guidance of my mentors, I was educated on the goal of your organization and the scholarship opportunity presented. I would be delighted to send in any additional information requested for the creative writing scholarship.

I would hope to use this award for the purchase of much-needed school materials and books for my formal education. These range and vary, but the purchase of a university approved laptop is the most pressing for me at the moment. I believe the sum amount would benefit me greatly by alleviating financial stress on my already economically underprivileged household.

I would welcome any assistance in furthering my opportunities for the future. Please contact me if any need arises for the confirmation of personal information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Romo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Andrew Romo

Our city has been blessed in the shifting tides of time. A variety of diverse cultures and ideas permeate and resonate within the inhabitants of many people in Riverside. Often times there is a bridge or gap in understanding between peoples that has been the source of much conflict. This culminated, at least in the past, into vicious crime waves and gang affiliated activity. However, in recent times we have beared witness to a more positive shift towards a mindful and collective consciousness. While at the same time, a negative one.

As we live in a more globalized and aware society, a stronger sense of sympathy is shared across all neighborhoods and people. No matter what background we hail from, our children go to the same schools, we shop at the same stores, and live together in one area. It's important to maintain harmony and annihilate any sense of prejudice that may reside within the citizenry.

In the last couple of years, we have seen a surge of bigotry that is stemmed in misunderstanding and misinformation. We are often ostracized by political manipulation and the control of information in the digital age. The ease of access to "news" can and has proven to be capricious. It's both easy and tempting to rely on such outlets for the confirmation of bias echo chambers that reaffirm beliefs that may not be entirely grounded in reality. This has proven to be a problem in keeping the minds of people at ease in the face of discriminatory practices and opinions.

It has been proven time and time again that the only way to combat ignorance is education. I believe this to be the primary goal of the HRC. By funding and encouraging the participation of all age groups to take part in such activities, it is ensured that there is ample opportunity for the people to appreciate what kind of place they live in. Persons of all religions, races, genders, and economic backgrounds can come together to appreciate the richness of their environment.

By being grounded in experiences taking place in reality, individuals are more prone to formulate their opinions based on what they're actually facing. This can essentially break the mold of stereotyping and bullying. Introducing a human element into the combating of Vincible ignorance brings out the best in people. We realize how similar everybody is in the end. There is no need to fight against one another when we are the same in our hearts.

A great deal of emphasis must be placed on the importance of this subject matter. All individuals are important to society. So long as we coexist we can build a better and stronger future together.

Anna Jungbin Lee
19205 Stagecoach Lane
leeanna@grinnell.edu • anna424lee@gmail.com • (951)-907-1389

June 9, 2019

The Riverside Human Relations Committee
3900 Main St. 7th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Anna Lee. I graduated in May of this year from Martin Luther King High School, and will be attending Grinnell College in the fall to study Economics. I plan to attend law school after completing my undergraduate studies. I want to first thank you for considering me for the HRC Creative Writing Scholarship.

Being someone who hopes to become a lawyer in the future, issues regarding social justice and equity are very pertinent to my life. The mission statement of the HRC so well aligns with many of my personal values, which is a reason why I am applying for this scholarship. Should I win this scholarship, I plan to use the prize money to help with funding the many expenses that come with college. As I am a twin, my parents need me to be as self sufficient as I can regarding paying for my own education as it is a great financial burden for them to cover my sister's expenses along with mine. Some of the aforementioned expenses may include textbook purchases, flights back and forth from my college in Iowa and back home when the residence halls close, and to supplement the cost of room and board. Going to a private college out of state means a hefty tuition and an array of other unexpected costs, The scholarship money would thus be helpful in easing the financial burden of making such a large investment.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding my application, please do not hesitate to contact me at anna424lee@gmail.com or leeanna@grinnell.edu. I am sincerely grateful to the HRC for providing this opportunity to scholars, and would again like to thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anna Lee', with a stylized, flowing script.

Anna Lee

Essay:

My childhood was consumed by wishing I was something I was not. I drew myself as a blond girl with blue eyes in preschool, just like many of the Disney princesses. I rejected my dosirak lunch box made carefully by my Korean mother, and turned towards peanut butter and jelly sandwiches like my American friends who whispered about the pungent smell of the kimchi I loved. I refused to speak Korean. I listened to the music my American friends listened to instead of the Korean music my dad was always so excited about. When middle school came, so did the nasty realization that my black hair and my monolid eyes and the racial stereotypes associated with my ethnicity made me the subject of ridicule. My naivete was shattered by those middle school kids calling me “ching chong”, insulting my eyes, and telling me I should be ashamed that my people eat dogs.

I wanted so badly to reject my identity. But it was all that I had.

And when your identity is all that you have..you have to learn to be proud of it again.

This is the common narrative of an ethnic minority growing up in America.

As kids, we are oblivious to the differences in race, religion, and culture. But kids don't stay blind to difference forever. Eventually, we see how different we are, and after reeling in the pain of this realization, we learn to embrace it.

That last step in growing up as a minority, that stage of accepting and embracing one's identity, is only truly possible through education. It is after all knowledge that elevates a person's openness and willingness to empathize.

My pride in my identity as a Korean American was rekindled through looking beyond the racist remarks that came from ignorance and turning towards enlightening myself about my own culture and our history. Through the National History Competition, I created a documentary about Korean history that won regional and county titles, advancing to state wide competitions.

The best part wasn't winning. The best part was knowing how many people came in contact with Korean history through each showing of my documentary at each level of competition.

The point here is simple. Education is our key to understanding each other, and is an important tool in our daily lives. It creates mutual understanding and respect between people, and is the only way we can eliminate discrimination and prejudice.

I am no longer a naive girl whose only wish is to be someone else. I am empowered by the fact that I am me, and that my identity is backed by thousands of years of rich culture and

history. What I have now is a stable identity, and a mission as I go on to college to achieve my dreams.

This is MY mission statement: Fight ignorance with knowledge. Foster understanding and empathy through enlightenment. But before you do that...embrace your identity. It will oftentimes be all that you have in the world.

Bianca Salazar
12913 Coralberry St.
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Dear Riverside's Human Relations Commission,

I have just finished my junior year at John W. North High School with the RUSD district, which now makes me a senior and soon to be college freshman. I am 17 years old and ended my junior year with a 4.2 GPA and I have decided to apply for the HRC's creative writing scholarship in hopes of using the prize money to further my education. My goal is to go to a four year university and then go straight into a physician assistant program and I strongly believe that this scholarship, the creative writing scholarship, can help me achieve my goal because I would use the prize money to help pay for any books that will be needed once I start college, and to help pay for some of my college tuition once that time comes.

Thank you for considering me for your scholarship.

Sincerely,
Bianca Salazar

It is not fair that some people are born perfectly healthy while others are born with multiple medical conditions. It is not fair that some people are born into a wealthy family while others are not. It is not fair that a person of color has to fear cops their entire life, while a person that is not of color, does not. Everyone is born and destined to go down a different path in their lifetime and everyone will for a fact, have obstacles that will get in their way when wanting to achieve a goal but truth be told, someone's race, ethnicity, or wealth status, should never be one of those obstacles.

It is important that there is justice and equal opportunities for everyone in this world because if there isn't, things such as favoritism, discrimination, and hatred, begin to build. Everyone deserves to have equal opportunities in life because we are all born the same and being of a certain race, or having a certain amount of money, does not define who gets a better shot at having a certain opportunity in life. By having an opportunity to do something, that means that someone gets to work their hardest to achieve whatever it is that they are trying to achieve and when someone is not given an opportunity to prove themselves, that someone is being put one step behind in their path to success.

Having mutual understanding and respect between people is very important because it can help to eliminate things such as prejudice and discrimination, when things like that should not even exist. We are all born into this world the same and we are all born with one thing in common and that one thing is death because as sad as it is to say, we will all die at some point. Everyone in this world is the same which is why everyone should be given equal opportunities.

Word count: 322

Maanasi Kademani

6 JUNE 2019

To whom it may concern,

Growing up in today's ever-changing society has provided me with a rather unique perspective on the world, especially as an Indian-American. I've been able to learn and experience more about the diversity and beauty of our society than ever before. Today, with the help of social networking and the platforms offered by organizations such as the Human Relations Commission, more people than ever have the opportunity to have a voice. I am truly fortunate to have this opportunity to add my voice to the global conversation.

As a kid, my dream was always to become a doctor. I've been a lover of science since as far as I can remember. I was an avid viewer of Bill Nye the Science Guy, and forever fascinated by the wonders the natural world had to offer. I've pursued this passion since then, competing every year in science fairs and filling my schedule with all the possible science courses I could take.

If I win this scholarship, I would put the funds towards college. Education is the most significant step towards pursuing my dream of becoming a doctor. I will be applying to universities in the fall, and will be putting the funds towards college applications.

Thank you for the opportunity to not only bring my voice to the world, but also help me pursue my goals!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maanasi K". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maanasi Kademani

June 10, 2019

My name is Reilly Jimenez and I am 17 years old and a junior at Encore High School for the Arts in Riverside. I am so happy to have found this scholarship opportunity in the literal final hour. I happened to find it on facebook this evening.

I have loved the arts since I was about 7 years old. My mom put me in some acting and dance lessons but our financial situation didn't allow me to take many classes over the years. My mom has supported my desire to be involved in the arts and finding Encore has been a huge blessing for me to combine school and the arts. I am not a very successful student. The academic part of school has always been a challenge for me and as I look forward to attending college I realize that my grades do not allow me to be as competitive as I'd like to be.

However, I have recently been accepted at a professional training program in New York once I graduate in 2020. This is very exciting but figuring out how to pay for it is a bit overwhelming. With my acceptance came an invoice for a \$750 deposit to reserve my space due this month. When I saw this scholarship opportunity I was blown away at the coincidence. I would be so grateful and honored to be chosen to receive this award. It would make my dream of performing on broadway one step closer to reality. I love the Riverside community, it continues to support me and find my tribe, if you will, within the arts.

I truly appreciate your consideration,

Reilly Jimenez

(714)270-3946

Born to Be?

Coming into this world you do not know

Know the boxes society puts you in

The restrictions they put on your imagination

The labels they give your individuality

You just go along with the flow

Absorbing the subliminal messages, internalizing the feelings of being limited

You must be confined by a race, a gender, a sexuality

Defined by a status, a grade, a way of thinking about the world

You don't even realize it's happening, even strive to become limited

Like the opposite of Russian nesting dolls

Letting the outside world hold your potential deep within

You remember dreaming of possibilities and the places you'd like to go

But...SNAP...the first doll snaps down...you are limited by your family's income

You remember imagining becoming a dancer or a singer

But...SNAP...the next doll snaps in place...you are restricted by your gender, boys don't dance

You remember making plans...

But...SNAP...the next doll...

And so on

Until

The darkness defines you

Or your fire ignites you?

The day comes there's a knock on the shell of your existence

Will you answer it? Welcome the visitor in? Be open to their view of you?

Will you consider that those that limited you were afraid of what you may become

The keeper of the fire that lights the darkness
That breaks beyond the circumstances
That pulls the borders of the limits
That shatters the dolls that surround us all
Show the world all that you can be when true colors are released
The sound of freedom can be deafening

We are born to be
The best version of ourselves we can be
To live a journey and gather stories along our road

When the dark surrounds you, look for the fire keepers
Surround yourself with their light
Be inspired
Find who you were born to be
Shine
Inspire
Strive
Live
Love
And most importantly help light the fires of those in their dark

By Reilly Jimenez

Daniel Ledbetter

Poly High School

9 June 2019

Understanding the Outside Cover

My eyes gaze upon the bathroom mirror. Looking at every edge, corner, and pore I spot on my face, with my tan color pigmentation as the background to my complexion. My view zooms out, like a camera trying to focus in on another object in the distance. Now I see everything from my dark brown hair to the broadness of my chest. But the one thing that stands out to me, that brings an abrupt halt to my understanding, is my skin. Skin, a thin layer of tissue that covers my body, but seems to be the thing that is judged the most by others around me. You see my eyes make me believe that what I look at everyday in that bathroom mirror is something normal. I am a human. However, the ability to talk has a more dramatic effect to what I believe is right. This altercation causes my mind to go blank, and puts me in a position of somewhere in this world that I do not belong in. I am being viewed more on my ethnic background than what I can put on paper.. I am being categorized as part of a group that I have no business in being in. I am being questioned about my identity because I have a black father.

I am not black, but I say that I am. This excuse is what I tell the ones around me when they see my dad. "Wait, so you are black, right?" or "Who is that man you were talking to?" These questions are carried on my shoulders everyday. Now, these questions would not frustrate me if they weren't asked so much. I have hidden my true self away and locked it in a closet for no one to know for years. I have imprisoned myself because society seems to care more on others than they do themselves. Why does my look matter? I can feed myself as to others. I can walk as to

others. I can understand just like.....wait. Some may be able to other like myself. The hard thing about the whole situation is that I should not have to hide behind the curtain just to be accepted. I can feel the truth getting ready to pop out at any point in time because I cannot take the lies anymore.

Shame should not be an option for me because that man I call dad has guided me into the right steps to a successful life. He has characterized my own human being with sports and knowledge that I can take with me to my very last day. His existence has made that mirror bigger and now the full picture is in effect. No matter how many questions are thrown, they will bounce right off my focus because I have goals to achieve. I have dreams I want to come true. I have a family I need to love, especially my dad.

Cover Letter

If I won the scholarship prize, I plan on using it to fund for college. My parents have put a lot of money on me for football, which includes camps and training. This would just be me giving back to them because they have done so much for me through my life. College is expensive and I just want help out enough so I don't struggle in the long run.

Representation

The power and significance of representation, especially in media, is greatly undervalued by most people. People often overlook the impact of seeing someone who looks like yourself portrayed in books, in movies and TV.

Growing up as one of the only Indian-American girls in my classes, I faced a lot of identity crises quite early on. I had few role models I directly identified with as all the girls on TV and in movies looked the same. All the books I read featured the same type of girl: White, blonde hair, blue eyes, and undeniably American. I saw no-one who balanced her Indian identity with her American identity, and in turn learned to bury every aspect of my Indian identity. The lack of diversity in media taught me that conformity to one ideal was the pathway to acceptance. I attempted to conform as much as possible, refusing to speak my native Kannada to my parents, refusing to take rice to school, and overall refusing to display any part of my Indian identity.

However, I couldn't hide the obvious difference in my appearance. My brown skin and dark hair was a reminder that I was suppressing an essential part of myself in the hopes of conforming to everyone else. This difference did not go unnoticed by everyone, and I often felt subject to stereotyping. The lack of representation of Indian Americans in media directly led to typecasting of a specific stereotype on anyone who diverted from the "ideal". I was called "Abu", asked where my pet tiger was, and mocked for the food that I ate and the lack of an Indian accent.

The lack of representation of diverse characters in media contributes to this typecasting, impacting not only people of that group, but also people who are not of the group. Stereotyping a specific group in media contributes to mass misinformation on the true characteristics of that group. People may mistake caricatures of cultures on television to be representative of what they truly are, leading to subconscious discrimination. This is why representation in media is so powerful.

Nothing can describe the feeling of being able to connect to a character, and feel that you are truly represented by them. As a kid, growing up with limited representation in media, I idolized anyone who looked close to me. Nothing can describe the joy and acceptance I felt when I first picked up a book written by an Indian American author, or when I read about an Indian-American astronaut, or saw an Indian-American model represented in media. This connection deeply impacted me, affirming that my dual identity as both an American and an Indian could never hold me back from pursuing my dreams.

Representation of all groups of people in media is so important to affirming that everyone has a voice, and that everyone is accepted.

June 10, 2019

The City of Riverside's Human Relations Commission
3900 Mains St.
Riverside, CA 92522

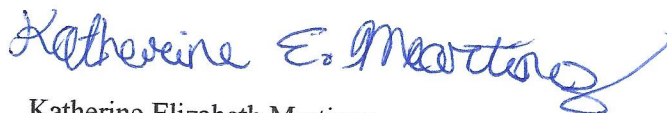
COVER LETTER

Hello,

My name is Katherine and I'm a recent graduate from the graduating class of 2019 from Hillcrest High School in Riverside, California. I am also a resident of Riverside and am registered as a full time student at Norco Community College beginning the Fall term. I need all the financial assistance I can get, as my ultimate goal is to become a Cardiologist. I also do not have a job, but have been spending my time volunteering at the hospital. At Norco College, I will be using my scholarship award to purchase textbooks. If there is any money left over, I will continue to use the funds for more textbooks or towards tuition as I transition from community college to a four year university.

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to earn a scholarship as it will help me stress less and focus on my studies.

Thank you!



Katherine Elizabeth Martinez

17389 Meadow Rock Drive

Riverside, CA 92503

Katherine E. Martinez
June 10, 2019
Creative Writing Scholarship
Poem
17389 Meadow Rock Drive
Riverside, CA 92503
760-810-3230
katherineemartinez01@gmail.com

Success

There is no doubt the City of Riverside is a place where all citizens abide,
To the rules while receiving the best education within our schools.

Living life in the Riverside Community with pride
and immunity against discrimination along with being
consistent in having communication. And to learn to be persistent while showing to be more
understanding than to be demanding. Keeping this in mind, our city still is standing and
expanding. In doing this, less problems ever do exist.

As we fulfill people's dreams at the seams,
with our intuition... that is what drives our mission.

19111 Bergamont Dr.
Riverside, California 92508

May 18, 2019

Dear HRC Scholarship Committee,

I am applying for the HRC Creative Writing Scholarship because I intend to attend a four year university in order to further my education.

I would like to pursue a degree in fashion design and merchandising at The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in San Francisco in order to become a stylist or visual merchandiser in the future.

I am currently entering my senior year in high school. I am a club officer/president for King Kids Against Cancer, Key Club, Interact Club, BSU, and P.A.W.S.S. I am also a leader and social event commissioner for Link Crew. Outside of school, I volunteer at a dog rescue and a local library.

Thank you for considering me for your scholarship.

Sincerely,

Maya Moore

Photographic memory

(noun):

the ability to subsequently recall information or visual images in great detail
which may or may not influence current behavior

I am 6 years old standing
on asphalt somewhere in the southwest

There are stars

Pouring out of the sky

One

after another

after another

click

I do not have enough wishes for all of them

I am 12 years old

Sitting across from my cello teacher

She grabs my bow

Runs the pad of her finger along the hair to make sure it is wound tight
enough

She hands it back to me

Click

She says

Anything you play

Play it with every whisper of passion that you feel inside of you

Otherwise

It will be a waste of time

I think about that a lot

Though I am not always sure she was only talking about my cello

I am 15

It is my first date with a boy

and there are a thousand tiny fireworks exploding over the city below us

click

I can see this but not the bottom of the mountain we are standing on

I cannot believe that we are all so small

I am 16

I am walking down a street of white dogwoods

The wind capturing every single petal

And glazing the entire block

click

The blossoms do not have much choice in this

And yet
it makes me believe in magic
I am 16
The lantern takes flight my fingertips
click
I watch
As it takes a deep breath
beginning its journey home
I wish it a safe flight on its way to the heavens
I wish
every moment was as breathtaking as this one
Click
A million moments
Click
Fragments
Of seconds
An infinite number of pictures
Click
I capture them in snapshots
Carry them with me
On perpetual film
Click
Sometimes
They are unfocused
Taken at the wrong moment
click
A trivial blur
Click
Click
I am 16
And sitting on a staircase with the boy i grew up with...
Click
He begins to touch me and i do not move
If i do not breathe
If i do not
Utter a word
Maybe
He will forget i am even here at all
Save to memory..

Go back
Go back
Go back
Go back
Go back
His arm
Stretched over the aisle of the bus
Offering me a candy cane
Go back
Him
Sprawled out on the music room floor while we watch Forrest Gump for the
First time
Go back
A folded diagram
That he has hand drawn
Explaining all the reasons why i would not survive in costco during the
zombie apocalypse
Memories selected
Delete all

Mia Baltierra

Incoming High School Senior, age 17

HRC Creative Writing Scholarship

If I am honored with the HRC Creative Writing Scholarship, I would use the money to help fund the cost for the UCLA Mock Trial Summer Institute I will be attending this July. The summer program is costly (about \$2000.00 not including food costs), but I know it will fuel my goals for the future and provide me with invaluable skills. I've been apart of my high school's Mock Trial team since it's inception during my freshman year. I've developed as a leader, a speaker and a critical thinker. I know that this summer program would further those skills and be a huge step towards my career as a lawyer. As I lawyer I plan to fight for what is right and give back to my Riverside community which has given so much to me.



My parents have always instilled in me an appreciation for the value of education and hard work. Though neither have college degrees, they know how important it is for me to have a good education. They have struggled through the years financially, and my family has pooled money together to send me to Notre Dane High School in Riverside. They want me to have opportunities they did not have access to growing up, living in a low income area. I have a great appreciation for the hard work of my family and in return I maintain a strong work ethic and strive to do my best. The gift of being able to attend a Notre Dame has introduced me to many pathways I never dreamed to be possible. One such pathway being exposed to a career in law. In my freshman year a Mock Trial team was formed and through this I have unearthed a passion for the law. The head coach of our team, who is now a Judge, has spent many years in the Public Defender's office in Riverside. The morals he taught to us include having respect for all, being able to think on your feet and knowing what is just. I've applied these values both in the courtroom and in real life. In the courtroom I've played the roles of clerk, defendant, and prosecution attorney. As an attorney I had my first glance at what a future in law would be like. I collaborated with my co-council and witnesses, writing my own direct and cross examinations. The work load was intense but I began to appreciate the effect law can have on those around us and looked forward to our long team practices with a newfound excitement. Entering competition was a whole new world. Opposing teams were fierce, and being able to contest with a real life Judge why I believed he/she should rule in our favor was an environment I thrived in. As a result of my dedication and hard work, I won the MVP award for our team. In the pursuit of justice, my goal is to remain courteous to everyone and fight for what is right. Being able to be a voice for others is why I want to pursue a career in law. With the rampant corruption in our world, I want to be apart of the movement to bring into fruition a world of justice. I want to fight for the voiceless, and one day even help create new laws to protect those who are underrepresented. I believe all people regardless of background or status should be given the proper and fair treatment they deserve. If I am chosen for this scholarship, the money will go to help fund the tuition of UCLA's Mock Trial Summer Institute. This summer program is extremely important to me and is an amazing opportunity for me to hone my legal knowledge and boost my skills for Mock Trial and for my future in law.

Noah Flores
10731 Kloiber Ct.
Riverside, CA 92505
Noahflores730@gmail.com

June 10, 2019

To whoever this may concern,

My name is Noah Flores and I am an entering Senior this fall at La Sierra High School. I have lived in Riverside my entire life and am glad that I was given the blessing to have been raised in such a beautiful and history-rich city. One of my biggest passions is helping the less fortunate in our community. To put this passion of mine into action, I began a club at my school called La Sierra Feeds. In the club I began with the help of like-minded students, friends, and administrators, we collected unwanted food sides at lunch and would send them out to be redistributed at local food shelters and food banks. If I were to win any money in the form of a scholarship, I would hope to put a small part of it towards growing my organization for this coming school year and put the rest towards a savings account to assist with the costs of furthering my education down the road. In furthering my education I hope to study psychology as that has been another one of my passions throughout high school.

Upon learning more about the HRC of Riverside I have been inspired by the services they provide to the city furthering the elimination of prejudice and discrimination. I hope to hear back from you soon, thank you for your consideration of my entry.

Respectfully yours

Noah Flores

A Cry For Equity and Equality

Much too frequently we tune into our local news stations as well as major news outlets to witness brutally clear examples of how split our nation stands. From the indifference throughout the two major political parties, many more tensions arise in subjects such as racial discrimination, gun control, and abortion rights. I am sitting at my desk writing this hoping to spark a conversation around them, not create a diatribe. Leaders and followers alike, we all need to begin to take charge and move towards equal opportunity, justice, and access to resources for all. Through actions such as the ones brought upon by the Human Relations Commission here in Riverside, we can all become part of the fight to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and our youth plays a major role in this fight.

Our nation was fundamentally founded upon the narrative that claimed ‘white’ people were intellectually superior to African-Americans. Since then, the United States as a whole has continually done the bare minimum to acknowledge the legacy of genocide, slavery, lynching- among other actions that intended to marginalize as well as disadvantage minorities- setting no precedent on dealing with atrocious inequalities in our society. Before we even attempt to foster change in our detrimentally inequal society, we must be able to accept our past mistakes. It is not until we come to terms with the mistakes in our history is that we will create change in ourselves as well as in our society. These topics are not ‘adult talk’; they need to be discussed in our schools. Every single citizen should be able to have their voice heard by someone who will act accordingly to correctly represent a group of people. The three subjects I listed earlier- racial discrimination, gun control, and abortion rights- typically are seen as problems arising around

the youth in the United States. Segregation in schools was a major injustice for over 200 years. 24 school shootings occurred in the United States in 2018 alone between an average of 180 school days per year. That makes it approximately 1 occurrence every week. Teen pregnancy rates have been dropping due to further education on sexual health in schools, but teen pregnancies do still occur. What choice do teen mothers as well as unable adult mothers have in these situations but to birth children into unhappy lives when their rights to safe and readily available abortions are taken?

What I hope got across to whoever this may concern is that teenagers need to be trusted and raised knowing the challenges they are soon to continue to advocate against. As a teenager, I am inspired by the steps to eliminate prejudice and discrimination the HRC of Riverside has taken. I am extremely lucky to have been raised in a city that cares as much about its residents as Riverside does. In the future, I hope to be able to contribute toward the fight for equality and justice in our society.

Shelby Permann

Human Relations Commission Scholarship

I graduated from Martin Luther King High this year with honors and this fall I will be a freshman all over again when I start college at Arizona State University. I will be pursuing a secondary education degree and a minor in business which will take five years unless I commit to the idea of getting a PHD. As a first generation college student and the eldest child, college is a foreign territory and the whole experience is exhilarating. The money from this scholarship would go towards my tuition, easing the looming financial burden of college. Arizona State University has a program in which students get an opportunity to teach children English in other countries which sounds like the kind of fulfilling work I'd experience through the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College. The financial aid awarded would make me feel more comfortable studying abroad and discovering new aspects of my future career. A weight would be alleviated off my chest allowing me to focus on my studies and enrichment rather than fretting over student loans. In the long run I see myself teaching in schools or even prisons. Knowledge can change people completely and I would love to give someone else that spark to find themselves. Poverty, intolerance and environmental issues all stem from a deficient education and ignorance and I feel that informing the new generation is the best way to impact society and inspire change. I would be deeply appreciative for any aid that can get me closer to my goals.

The lights flicker on over empty cubicles as the sun shines through the window in the east. The day renewed holds opportunity, which in the workplace is in the hands of human

resources. To breathe life into the skeleton of a corporation, a team must be built and maintained by a dedicated human relations manager. HR is the nurturing hand that will sow new employees and integrate a diverse crop, turning over the foundation to create a symbiosis that yields the fruits of labor and progress. Each worker is vital and planted with purpose and faith that the garden will flourish with them. No seedling is left to waste, their efforts rewarded in nutrient and attention. For the good of the garden HR does the weeding, a heavy responsibility that ensures the health of the garden and the safety of the individual. The undue hardship of a grazing snail is lifted off its track by the gloved hand, halting the leech of nutrients. Creeping roots are trimmed as not to strangle the balance of the nursery. The smallest of sprouts is not discarded for its meekness but given extra attention to encourage growth. A lattice trains the weak stalk and wisdom bestowed upon the sprout, grants the same opportunity to climb like a vine and face the sky as nearby sunflowers do. The gardner attracts the talent of pollinators; Mother Nature whisks her hand and a brigade of bees rush in to perpetuate a cycle of success. The horticulturist that HR is, there is a human compassion that courses through the nursery as each crop is fostered through the roughest of seasons, the driest droughts and the most rambunctious winds. As the lights grow brighter and the sun now peers through the west, human resources can wipe their brow and look back at the lush jungle climbing over particle board walls and sprawling over the linoleum. The greenhouse doors can be closed knowing that each need has been met and that tomorrow will be just as bright for every seed.

Yamin Mazumder

4916 Westmont St, Riverside, CA 92507 · 951-710-7832 · yaminamazumder@gmail.com

June 6, 2019

I chose to compose a poem briefly addressing how institutionalized racism still holds some of our society back from equal opportunity, but more importantly, centered around the solutions we must implement to calm the tribalistic, 'picking sides', tide we've witnessed in recent memory.

I plan to use the prize money from the Human Relations Commission to continue experimentation on my multi-year Capstone research on probiotic efficacy, and to help me take classes at University of California, Riverside. My family will have three kids in college this coming year, four the following, and we don't seem to qualify for much aid from the traditional scholarships and resources. Biology is a passion of mine, one that drives me to pursue medicine, but creative writing has always held a special place in my heart and I don't plan to leave it behind as I study to become a doctor. I think the communication divide between scientific discovery and the general public runs deep, and my hopes to utilize both writing and science to help others inspires me to fill this void to provide for a brighter, more progressive future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yamin Mazumder

A Tide Over

At 17 years of age, I feel like I'm 40.

A few peers relate, as we watch with unwavering scrutiny,

At what men do to each other, in the name of democracy.

Encouraged to exercise certain unalienable rights

But reading about their daily violations all the same,

Every instance is an example of undeniable blights

In a system with a silent name, and a testament to our shame.

Institutionalized and irrefutable, prejudice continues to run its course,

Closing the door of opportunity in many colored faces, showing no sign of remorse.

Discrimination remains despite what you may think,

And it's no surprise considering our ignorance won't let it sink.

To fight all this bias and bigotry in a fairly closing manner,

We have to branch out and listen, not wave tribalistic banners.

It's great to identify with the people you've always known,

But now it's time to show the world how we as a civilization have grown.

True understanding and respect between all is what it takes to get closer

All we need now is strong efforts and love of each other to bring this tide over.

Purple

By: Yosola Olakunle

Roses are red
And, of course, violets are blue.

We chose to see the red ones,
But end up ignoring the blues.
When we ignore just one soul
We lose ourselves as a whole.

Roses see red
And violets see blue

Roses disagree with this,
While violets agree with that
Like armed combat
That'll never be dismissed.
Will anyone ever win?

Roses hate blue
And, of course, violets hate red.

Yes, we want justice
And with justice comes equality.
Right?
But when we are constantly picking sides
those things will never arise.

Roses fight for red
And violets fight for blue.

We live in a day,
in an age where it always has to be:
Black or white,
Gay or straight,
"Po-tay-to" or "po-ta-to,"
Red or blue.

Unnecessary tension
Halting peace and empowerment's ascension.

"All men were created equally"
"Yea right," they say sarcastically

We have only made repeats...

To repeat...

The repeated errors of the ones before us

So roses should no longer be red,

And violets no longer blue.

Let's conjoin together to make something new

Purple

Sanchez, Xavier

From: Sanchez, Xavier
Sent: Friday, June 14, 2019 10:36 AM
To: victoriakaufman82@gmail.com
Subject: Human Relations Commission Creative Writing Scholarship

Hello,

Thank you for your participation in the Creative Writing Scholarship.

The following are required from you to be eligible for a scholarship:

1. Please resubmit your creative writing piece and cover letter in PDF format.
2. You must be from a riverside school district to be eligible. What school district are you from?

The first and second place of the scholarship will be announced at the Human Relations Commission on Thursday June 27th at the Art Pick Council Chambers located at 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 at 6:00 pm. You are welcome to attend if you would like.

Regards,

Xavier Sanchez
City of Riverside
Office of the Mayor, Intern
Main: 951.826.5551
RiversideCA.gov



SAMANTHA MARKSON

STUDENT | POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL
SAMANTHAMARKSON856@RUSDLEARNS.NET

CONTACT

2317 Old Heritage Road
Riverside, CA 92503
951-880-7463

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

HRC@RIVESIDECA.GOV

June 7, 2019

Dear Human Relations Commission,

It is my privilege to submit for your review a recent poem I wrote for my Junior year High School project at Polytechnic High School in Riverside. This poem is based on a true experience I had with a suicidal friend who placed me in a quandary with her confidences. Unfortunately, my experience is not that uncommon amongst this generation. It is my hope to enlighten others of the pain and confusion felt by the peers of suicidal teens and encourage discussions by those indirectly effected by teen depression and suicide.

If I should succeed as a recipient of your Creative Writing Scholarship, I intend to put the monies towards my college savings and use towards obtaining a degree in Pediatric Psychology.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Samantha Markson

My Old Friend

She didn't walk around with her head low or burning eyes, but I saw her

I could hear the untold story within her every time I looked into her eyes
The cries for help that were never heard, the assaults that were never told, the
blood that never stopped, and the sound of her heart breaking
She camouflaged her pain behind a broken smile that only ever lied, but I saw
her, very few saw her

I watched her fade into this being that was so removed
You see, she was like the lamp that never stopped flickering, the guitar with no
strings, the movie with no sound, and the extension cord that wasn't quite long
enough

I saw this girl who craved comfort, but was never held, a girl who required help,
but she could never ask for it
It took me months to finally understand that her cry for help was tucked in
between the hateful words she spit in my face

The month of June will always remind me of the churning of my stomach as I sat
in fear waiting for the reassuring phone call that I never received
She was inescapable inside her own head, fighting the demons that she could only
hear

On this night, I was no longer the suicide prevention hotline, for her walls had built walls and her defenses had grown defenses, and there was no possible way I could save her

There was no other choice

911, what's your emergency?

"I hate you," she sent to me

I wanted to tell her that I hate her too

I hated her for saying, "I love you" in the suicide letter she wrote with my name as the burning must read title

I hated her for not listening to me on the sleepless nights she pressed that blade against her beautiful, beautiful, beautiful skin

I hated her for pushing me away when all I wanted to do was save her

But I couldn't save her

I couldn't save her because only she had the power to do so

We cannot fix people - that was the harsh reality I had to understand.

I lost myself trying to help her find her purpose when I myself was unaware of why I was breathing

We as people tend to feel alone with the ones we love

We feel alone with those we don't love

And you see, this is what my old friend taught me

Love only works when it's on our side

I can't force someone to step inside my mind and look through my eyes

I will never be able to change how someone thinks, how they love, how they feel

I am stronger because of my old friend for she has taught me the difference between screaming and laughing, love and toxicity and life and death.

She didn't walk around with her head low or burning eyes, but I saw her I'm so happy I did.

Victoria Kaufman

A song audible to all ears droned in the night, but where was the music coming from? Was it coming from a far or being played right in front of me? The reverberating sound was inescapable, conflicting torture worse than the bitterst shards of agony. But the sound was also sweet, it gave me a comforting solace, like beautiful fragments of the moon on a somber night. The outcome of listening to the dire yet inviting, perfectly imperfect tantalizing melody was that everyone fell asleep, everyone except me. I searched hastily for answers, why was I the only one awake? Was I the only one awake? Was I being rewarded or punished? I wasn't sure what to do, what I was supposed to do. I wasn't sure if I should try to wake them up or join their tranquil slumber, and become unbound from reality. So I spent my time living in another world, a world of musing, living with phantasms, and no worries. I felt the world's clarity and color in its true pure form for the first time. But that soon turned into a castle in the sky, I wasn't asleep but I was dreaming. It became an eerie night of reflection filled with dream-like vibes, miracles and memories drifted through my mind as I wept about what could be. The serenity of the overshadowing celestial stars that filled the night was fake. I was living in a land of ghosts and shadows, a land where nightmares would pour down from the heavens eating away at everyone and everything until nothing was left except for itself. I was running through an infinite maze of dazzling and cracked mirrors. A inky shadow lurked in the night, a bright-eyed monster was revealed with light. I found myself living in the daunting unknown.

Human Relations Commission

Creative Writing Mission Statement Essay

Human Relations Commission is a huge part of the City of Riverside. It gives equal opportunity, justice, and access to services and opportunities in the City of Riverside, which this relates to the Human Rights. The idea of Human Rights was created as means of awareness. In 1964, Eleanor Roosevelt became one of the first important advocate for human rights by heading the United Nations' First Human Relations Commission. Also, considered the First Lady of the World due to her constant push for International Human Rights. Her goal was to make Human Rights, more or less, a second nature by passing laws demonstrate the importance of such rights. "Human rights" is a fairly modern concept, and it is one that has been getting a great deal of attention in the early years of the twenty-first century. While opinions differ wildly about what constitutes human rights, most modern world citizens believe that all people should have at least the most basic rights. Human Rights plays a role in everyone's life, but not everyone realizes it. It's involved in every comment you make that includes someone different. It affects people, even if it doesn't affect you. Human rights means being able to hold hands with the person you love, work where you're qualified to work. No matter what your skin color or sexual orientation being the reason you can't; it means having the right to be human, making choices and mistakes. The doctrine of human rights was created to protect every single human regardless of race, gender, sex, nationality, sexual orientation and other differences. The international community established international human rights laws that lay down the obligations of governments to respect, protect and fulfill human rights. The culture grew when education and awareness by interacting about the issue began. It was weak and had no real concrete value. Eleanor sought to make Human Rights a part of the law and not a culture; written laws were much more significant. Human Right norms -or laws- meant that if an act is forbidden in one nation then it would have the same fate in another, therefore laws have more power than just culture. While the creation of universal Human Right principles was a step for equality between human kind, this was not the case. The culture of Human Rights was more focused on the individual hypothesis rather than a group; therefore, certain human rights violations were ignored while others were addressed due to the idea that Human Rights are a luxury and not just a right. "Basically, we could not have peace, or an atmosphere in which peace could grow, unless we recognized the rights of individual human beings, their importance, their dignity and agree that was the basic thing that had to be accepted throughout the world." Eleanor Roosevelt.

Human Relations Commission

Cover Letter

My name is Valeria Ramirez and I am a senior at Arlington High School. My goals are to graduate and get accepted to my dream College/University, California Baptist University. I will major in Photography and Graphic Art Designs. I did not always want to be a photographer or graphic art designer. I always saw myself as a teacher, dancer, or perhaps joining the armed forces. My father works at West Coast Arborists working with medicine and my mother works at Taco Bell and has been working there for about fifteen years. I assumed I would follow a similar, boring, life as my parents.

Throughout my High School experience, everything changed. My Art teachers inspired me in ways I could ever imagine. They got me to be creative and that's what was important to me. Creativity is the heart a motivational classroom, empowers students and teachers to express ideas, opinions in a unique way and leads to active learning. They made me want to be a better student in all of my classes, and they helped me see the value of my creativity. I decided then that I wanted to inspire other students just as they did for me.

Since both of my parents work at a low paying job, they do not have enough money to contribute to my college expenses. I have earned a scholarship based on my SAT scores, but I still need additional funding for books and supplies. With the help of this scholarship, I will be able to afford my dream school, majoring in Photography and Graphic Art Design to fulfill my dream career.