Appalachian Scholar Essay Instructions

The Appalachian Scholars application process requires that you submit two essays: 1) a short essay of 250 words (approximately one typed page, double spaced) and 2) a long essay of 500 words (approximately two typed pages, double spaced). Please refer to the instructions below for each essay.

Short Essay Instructions
Please choose one of the following quotes and describe in your short essay how the quote applies to your personal experiences.

It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is a sin. Benjamin E. Mays

What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lives within us. Henry David Thoreau

If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people’s fantasies for me and eaten alive. Audre Lorde

You can do anything you want to, it’s easy, the hardest part is that you have to believe you can do it, the rest is a piece of cake. Jaime Escalante

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little. Edmund Burke

Without a struggle, there can be no progress. Frederick Douglass

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Gandhi

Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time. We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee. Marian Wright-Edelman

...some women write because there is in them a message to be given, and they cannot die until they have spoken it. Rebecca Harding Davis

There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well. Walter Reuther

A rocket won’t fly unless somebody lights the fuse. Homer Hickam
Appalachian Scholar Short Essay Page

Cite the quote from the list provided which is used as the basis for your 250 word short essay.
Please respond to the following questions in completing your 500 word essay. Describe what Appalachia is and what it means to you to be from Appalachia? What are the strengths of the Appalachian community where you live? What are some of your concerns you have about and for your community? What have you done in the present to address those concerns and what do you see yourself doing in the future to address those concerns?