

Mya Young

Essay 1 - Describe your horse interests and experiences

My name is Mya Young, and I am seventeen years old. I've had the privilege of riding and expanding on my knowledge of horses for approximately eleven years. I've spent most of my time doing dressage but recently started jumping which I really enjoy. I also love the technical aspect of the sport and the partnership I've built with different horses over the years.

Due to unfortunate circumstances such as the strangles outbreak and covid-19, I haven't had many opportunities to compete during my junior years. Instead, I've been focused on different equestrian elements such as acquiring my riding levels 1-3 through Equestrian Canada's Learn to Ride program. I was also selected to attend the Jill Irving Mentorship program in Wellington, Florida, where I had the honour of being exposed to some of the most talented equestrians in the world.

Since July of 2023, I've had the opportunity to be mentored in training a young horse who had been neglected and was considered feral. He has been making great progress under saddle and I am delighted to be a part of his recovery and training process.

My future goal is to immerse myself in the equestrian world by continuing to train horses, acquiring up to level 6 and getting more experience in the show ring.

Essay 2 - Describe how you would spend \$500

If I were awarded \$500, I would use the money toward accomplishing my two equestrian goals. My first goal is to successfully complete riding levels 4 through 6 so that I can become a certified coach. I would love the opportunity to expand my knowledge and share my passion for the sport with like-minded kids and adults.

In addition to riding at Silverwood Arabians, I recently started training with Valerie Phalen to improve my overall riding ability and jumping technique in preparation for testing. Valerie is enabling me to accomplish my second goal by allowing me to ride and compete with her horse Ellie this spring at the Geary Hill Equestrian Challenge. I believe this will help me gauge my competence in comparison to others in a different environment.

Thank you very much for your consideration in assisting me in achieving my equestrian goals!

