The person whose name is given above is an applicant for a Rhodes Scholarship. The Selection Committee will be grateful if you will provide a frank statement regarding this applicant’s qualifications.

Proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard is the first quality required of applicants, but they will also be required to show integrity of character, sympathy for and protection of the weak, the ability to lead and the energy to use their talents to the full.

Mr. Rhodes believed that the last of these qualities was best tested through participation and success in sports. Sporting prowess, however, is not an essential if applicants demonstrate in other ways the physical vigour which will enable Rhodes Scholars to make an effective contribution to the world around them. Mr. Rhodes clearly expected this in expressing the hope that a Rhodes Scholar would come to ‘esteem the performance of public duties as his highest aim’.

It is not expected that you will be able to speak from first-hand knowledge of the candidate’s qualifications under all those heads. If you are primarily acquainted with the candidate through an academic relationship you are requested to concentrate particularly on intellectual quality and potential (bearing in mind that your reference will be used for admission procedures at Oxford University) although your assessment of the other qualities will be very welcome to the Committee. If, on the other hand, you are better acquainted with the candidate through non-academic interests, you are requested to concentrate on assessment of character in the knowledge that the Committee is looking for persons who show promise of outstanding achievement in later life.

Please do not hesitate to speak of the candidate’s limitations as well as their qualities. A critical appraisal will add to, rather than detract from, the force of your letter, since Committees naturally tend to be dubious of recommendations which imply that a candidate has no limitations whatever.

Student applications for the Scholarship are due online by October 14, 2016. The Selection Committee will begin preliminary evaluation of the credentials of applicants on or about October 20. Your assistance will be especially valuable if your comments can be made available to the Committee by that date. All letters must therefore be received by October 14, 2016.

As soon as the candidate has registered the contact details of referees with their application in our online system, you will receive an auto-generated email from the Rhodes Trust with instructions about how to file your letters of appraisal online.

Thank you for your assistance. Selection Committees deeply appreciate your rich insights in helping us in our assessment of candidates for the Scholarship.

______________________________  __________________________________________  
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