Here are the instructions for this year's Essay:
Please compose an essay (1000-1500 words) that helps us understand more about you and your life.

It is important that you address all of the following questions/topics throughout the essay:

1. Tell us about two or three of your most meaningful accomplishments or times when you were proud of yourself (academic, personal/family, work, or other activities). Why are these meaningful? How do these accomplishments/experiences relate to your future goals?
   A. These can be from any point in your life that help describe who you are.
   B. Don’t just list them explain in detail how these accomplishments have helped you focus on what you want to do after high school.
   C. Remember, an accomplishment can include how you grew as a person.
   D. Be sure to include how these accomplishments helped you learn about yourself.

2. What is something you are passionate about? How do you share that passion with others? How does this passion show up in your life?
   A. This “something,” can be a hobby, talent or subject/career that interests you.
   B. Go into detail and explain how this passionate topic has impacted you and your choices.
   C. Explain why it is important to you.
   D. Did you experience a life changing event that led to this? Many students go through an event that leads to specific choices of education and careers.

3. How are you involved in giving back to others and/or the community? What does giving back mean to you?
   A. This is where community service should be highlighted.
   B. If you don't have community service experience, you more than likely give back to others in some way which is what you should focus on here.
   C. Don't list things that you've done; instead, tell about them. Share an actual experience- how did it make you feel- would you do it again- do you encourage others to do the same and so on....
   D. This should also be a minimum of 5 sentences (noticing a trend?) ;)

4. Tell us about a challenge or obstacle you have faced. What did you learn? How does this challenge or obstacle still impact you?
   A. This section is where you may go a little deeper into what your life has been like, however, you also want to focus on your resilience to overcome the obstacle.
   B. These challenges/obstacles can be things you have faced or even decisions you have made that have caused you to rethink/recommit to a path of success.

KEEP GOING THERE’S MORE ON THE BACK
C. Even if you don't feel that anything "bad" has ever happened to you, you still face obstacles everyday, so don't feel like you don't have anything to share here- trust me you do....

1. Have you ever failed at something and then achieved it?
2. Have you ever felt that something was impossible and then discovered that you could handle it?
3. Have all the cards been stacked against you in a situation, but you still made the most of it and learned from the experience?

D. Make sure to be focused on the lesson that the obstacle taught you- this is what is most telling about the experience, and also a good way to know if you should share the experience in this essay.

5. Is there anything else you would like for us to know about you?

   E. What have you done in high school that has helped you on the path of success
   F. Are there any specific people or subjects/courses that have instrumental to your plans?
   G. Discuss how you are a good representative of the type of student the scholarship committee is seeking and how you will be a positive ambassador on campus of the Buffett Organization.