

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIPS

Scholarship essays are meant to display your accomplishments. You're not bragging, you're highlighting!

Getting Started:

- Learn about the company or organization providing the scholarship.
- Print out any criteria and requirements for the scholarship.
- Make a list of all of your accomplishments, put stars next to major ones.
- Reflect on a problem you have faced in the past and write down how you overcame it.
- Write a few sentences about your career goals.

Most scholarship applications include at least one of the above items. Being prepared and having these items written down will already put you ahead of the game in writing a really great scholarship essay.

Tip #1: Read the instructions!

Many students' applications are not even considered because they failed to read the requirements for the scholarship. Make sure you qualify for the scholarship, include everything they are asking for, and meet the deadline date.

BONUS TIP:

HAVE SOMEONE READ OVER WHAT YOU WROTE, PICKING OUT ANY GRAMMATICAL AND MECHANICAL

Tip #2: Cut the crap!

Depending on the scholarship criteria many essays can be writing in four paragraphs. Your essay should include an introduction paragraph, two paragraphs outlining your accomplishments or answering questions provided, and a conclusion paragraph.

Introduction Paragraph

- Be creative! Try to capture the reader right from the start.
- Keep it simple! Do not go into detail on who you are.

Informational Paragraphs

- Include the basics! Make sure you include your major and where you attend college.
- Be direct! State why you are the best candidate for the scholarship and what you have accomplished.
- Answer the questions asked! If they give you questions, answer them with specifics.
- Show a need! State why you need this scholarship and how it will help you.

Conclusion Paragraph

- Restate! Repeat makes you the best fit for this scholarship.
- Write about your future! Include a few sentences on how this scholarship will affect your future.

Tip #3: Have great references!

Do not just pick anyone for your references. Take your time in contacting influential people in your life educationally and asking them to write you a reference letter or complete a reference sheet for you.

The biggest complaints many have in writing references is not having enough time and not knowing what to write about.

- Give your professional reference at least two weeks notice.
- Give your reference some information about the scholarship.
- Give your professional reference some guidance on what the company or organization is looking for.

Who is a good reference? Coaches, professors, tutors, counselors, religious leaders

Who is a not-so-good reference? Your brother, aunt, uncle, mother, or any family member

Final Essay Tips

- Always read over the instructions & requirements of the scholarship
- Proofread your essay
- Keep the essay simple & short (no more than one to two pages)
- Refrain from being too wordy
- Don't write a generic essay for every scholarship
- Focus on your strengths