

WRITING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAY

1. Plan ahead

- Don't procrastinate!
- Give yourself plenty of time to review and edit your essay

2. Talk about your accomplishments

- Be clear and to the point
- Don't be afraid to brag about yourself – essay questions are the only opportunity you have to brag

3. Make it easy on your reader

- Have someone else read your essay for clarity
- Write complete sentences and paragraphs
- SPELL CHECK your essay

4. Organize your thoughts

- Who are you?
- Why are you who you are?
- Where are you now?
- Where are you going?
- How are you going to get there?
- Why do you need a scholarship?
- How will it make a difference?
- How did you make the decision to continue your education?

ESSAY OUTLINE

1. Education and Career Goals

- Identify your major
- Why did you choose this major?
- What will you do with a degree in this field?
- What career path have you chosen?

Example: I have always enjoyed working with computers and I love to write. I'm pursuing a career in technological writing; this will allow me to pursue both interests - focusing on a viable career and doing something that I enjoy.

2. Brief Background

- Who are you? (not your name) – family, children, siblings, etc.
- How did you get to where you are today?
- What is important to you?
 - Insert extra-curricular interests, volunteer work, hobbies – things that make you stand out or are unusual.
 - Academic Accomplishments: GPA, level of difficulty of courses taken, types of courses taken, etc.

Examples:

-During my free time, I volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club as a Big Sister.

3. Need

- Why do you need a scholarship?
- How will it make a difference to you?

4. Conclusion

- Wrap it up with a simple sentence or two. You can include how your education to date has made a difference to you.