

Scholarship Essay

Purpose - TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

Scholarship sponsors want to know about you, so **tell them your story!** Do not wait for deadlines to come! Create one scholarship essay and tweak it for the different scholarships. Use the following to *brainstorm* ideas! You do not need to include everything.

Essay should reflect on your experiences. Often sponsors want to know - why did you get involved, what did you learn, how did it impact you, how did it impact others, how will you use it in the future. Most scholarships request a one to two page letter.

TIPS!

- ★ Common Themes: Leadership experience / Community involvement / Challenge (a time you faced one or you challenged yourself) / Future plans (program, career and why)
- ★ **Read the whole application!** Double check the directions!
- ★ Look at what they want to know from your references
- ★ PROOFREAD PROOFREAD PROOFREAD
- ★ Did you answer the question? Find the answer in your essay. If you have not talked about what the sponsor wants to know, add it in.

Sample outline on next page....

NOTE: This is an example of how you could organize it, but there are many other ways!

Dear Scholarship Committee (or use name of the person you are addressing)

First Paragraph (Future Paragraph)

- Describe your short & long term goals. (post secondary & career goals)
 - Tell them **Why** you want to pursue a certain career or opportunity, what brought you to this decision, Why is this a good fit for you (your interests, your strengths).
 - How will your career choice or opportunity contribute to society

Second Paragraph (Past Paragraph)

- ★ Decide what experiences mean the most to you! **Tell them why!**
 - Describe **leadership & volunteer involvement** in school / community
 - Why did you get involved? What did you learn? How did it impact you? How did it impact others? How will you use it in the future?
 - Describe hobbies/ activities in school / community
 - Describe special achievements
 - Describe how you have been helpful to others

Third Paragraph

- Describe any important life experiences (Hardships or adversities)
 - How have you overcome? how has it shaped who you are? What you have learned from these experiences? How will you apply it to the future?

Fourth Paragraph

- Financial Need Situation
 - What are your financial needs and any circumstances surrounding it.
 - Ideas: Do you have other siblings in post secondary? Will you be taking out student loans?

Closing Paragraph

- ie. Thank you for this opportunity, if you require anything else....

Your Name

Email

Phone number

Address, City, Province, Postal Code