

Scholarship Essay

APSU Writing Center Handout

A scholarship essay asks you to reflect on who you are, your accomplishments, and your goals. Its purpose is to show what makes you unique and why you deserve the scholarship over other qualified applicants.

Questions to Consider:

Who

Who is my audience?

What stands out about me compared to other applicants?

What

What are the essay requirements?

What is the prompt way to ask my audience to learn about me?

What am I passionate about?

What skills have I excelled in (leadership, academics, service, etc.)?

What achievements should I highlight?

What experiences have shaped who I am?

What adjectives would others use to describe me?

When

When did I develop or demonstrate my skills and achievements?

When is my application due?

Why

Why do I want this scholarship?

Why should I be selected for this opportunity?

How

How do my experiences connect to my future goals or career plans?

How will I express my motivation and emotions effectively?

How will I capture my audience's attention?

How will I answer all parts of the prompt?

How will I transition smoothly between paragraphs?

How to Write a Scholarship Essay

Answer the prompt and follow all guidelines.

Include specific examples of your strengths and achievements.

Organize your ideas in a clear, logical way.

Focus on a central theme or topic.

How to Review Your Work

Reread the instructions to ensure all questions are answered.

Read your essay aloud to check for clarity and errors.

Ask someone else to review it, such as at the writing center.

Introduction

Who are you?

What do you value?

Where are you from?

What shaped your early life?

Obstacle

What significant challenge have you faced?

How did you overcome it, and what did you learn?

Educational Goals

Major / field of study:

Why did you choose this field?

How will this degree impact your career?

Future Plans?

Background

Brief personal history:

How you got to where you are today?

What is important to you?

Examples of your character, strengths, and interests (hobbies, volunteering, leadership):

What makes you stand out?

Needs

Why do you need the scholarship?

How will it make a difference?

How will it align with your academic and career goals?

Conclusion

Summarize your story briefly:

Restate how the scholarship supports your goals:

End with a forward-looking, aspirational statement:

References

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