

Keys to Financial Success Essay Contest 2024-2025

\$2,500 Scholarships

The Delaware Bankers Association will award two (2) **\$2,500 scholarships** to students enrolled in a Keys to Financial Success course this school year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Students enrolled in grades 9-12 who will complete their Keys to Financial Success course by the end of the 2024-2025 school year are eligible for the scholarships.

DEADLINE

All essays must be received by **Friday, April 4, 2025, 10a.m.**, to be considered for the scholarship.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submit essays to:

Keys to Financial Success Essay Scholarship

c/o Scott Bacon

bacons@udel.edu

Essays may be submitted as a pdf or word file, any time up to April 4th.

TEACHERS:

Over the school year, if you have:

0-59 students in Keys: submit **your best 3 essays**.

60-100 students in Keys: submit **your best 4 essays**.

over 100 students in Keys: submit **your best 5 essays**.

It is recommended that this essay be used as a whole-class writing assignment that will help students practice Common Core writing skills. The Grade 11 Argumentative Writing Rubric is a good measure for the students to use when writing their essay.

CRITERIA:

Essays should be **three to four pages, double spaced, Times New Roman font 12**, explaining:

“How might personal finance education lead to more equitable outcomes?”

Essays should provide **specific** examples related to Keys to Financial Success themes, knowledge, and skills. Essays will be judged based on organization, purpose, evidence, elaboration and conventions. Include the student’s name, school and teacher’s name on the title page.

- I. Essays must be submitted by the teacher for consideration. No essays will be accepted directly from students. Essays must be the original work of the student. Teachers must check for plagiarism before submission.
- II. Judging will be done by representatives of the Delaware Bankers Association and the Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship.
- III. Winners will be notified by April 17, 2025. Awarding of the scholarship will take place at the Delaware Bankers Association Annual Dinner Meeting in May 2025. The recipients of the scholarship and parent(s) or guardians **must be present** to accept the scholarship. More details will be made available.

An excellent essay submission answers the prompt in detail with accurate and relevant information learned in the Keys to Financial Success course. Essays including personal experience are welcome.

Organization / Purpose

The essay has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating a sense of unity and completeness. The essay is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:

- claim is introduced, clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained for the purpose, audience, and task
- consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas
- effective introduction and conclusion
- logical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety
- alternate and opposing argument(s) are clearly acknowledged or addressed

Evidence / Elaboration

The essay provides thorough and convincing support / evidence for the argument(s) and claim that includes the effective use of sources (facts and details) where appropriate. The essay clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:

- comprehensive evidence / support from sources is integrated; references are relevant and specific
- effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques
- vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose
- effective, appropriate style enhances content

Conventions / Overall Impressions

The essay demonstrates an excellent command of conventions

- excellent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling
- few or no errors
- well-written
- insightful
- original / unique perspective / creative