

Writing An Effective Scholarship Essay

Tips from Brian Colorite, TTS Advisor

When you begin your college journey, one of the first things you will most likely think about is how to pay for college. This will lead you into many types of financial searches including one of the most well-known “scholarships.”

Many of the scholarship programs you may qualify for will involve you having to write an essay. Scholarship committees enjoy essays because it allows them to get a sense of who you are as a person versus just looking at your transcripts and grades.

Below are a few bullet points to help you focus on writing an effective scholarship essay:

- ◇ Make sure you read the instructions & understand what you should be writing about.
- ◇ Brainstorm some ideas down on paper & organize your thoughts before writing.
- ◇ Start with an outline.
- ◇ Be honest about your life and experiences you have had.
- ◇ Use clear & concise language throughout your essay.
- ◇ Give yourself enough time to write the essay.
- ◇ Have someone with strong writing and editing skills proofread your essay.
- ◇ Make sure your grammar and spelling are flawless.

Follow this sample structure for a scholarship essay worth reading!

Introductory - Paragraph 1

Start with a “hook” that catches the reader’s attention. Create a solid thesis statement of *why you* are a great candidate for this scholarship, it should also state the topics of your future paragraphs which explains why you are the best candidate.

Supporting - Paragraph 2

This should be the *first* topic of your thesis with *supporting details* with examples. Be sure to create a sentence linking your next paragraph.

Supporting - Paragraph 3

This should be the *second* topic of your thesis with supporting details with examples. Be sure to create a sentence linking your next paragraph.

Supporting - Paragraph 4

This should be the *third* topic of your thesis with supporting details with examples. Be sure to create a sentence linking your next paragraph.

Tie it all together - Paragraph 5

Restate why you are the best candidate for the scholarship & summarize the three topics you wrote about. Make sure you leave no doubt in the scholarship committee's mind *why you deserve the scholarship*.

And lastly, please remember if you are chosen for any scholarship, write a THANK YOU to the donor name or organization name.

Sources:

<https://www.sinclair.edu/>

<https://scholarships360.org/scholarships/how-to-write-a-winning-scholarship-essay/>

<https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-application-strategies/top-10-tips-for-writing-effective-scholarship-essays/>

Need a proofreader for your scholarship essay? Ask your TTS advisor!

Brian Colorite grew up in the small town of Oscoda and graduated from Oscoda Area High School. After high school, I joined the United States Air Force and was stationed in Eielson, Alaska. I knew that I eventually wanted to attend college and was fortunate enough to do so after my time in the military. I graduated from Northwood University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. I have always been an entrepreneur at heart and knew I wanted to start my own business after I completed my degree.

After college, I established three other successful businesses. Currently, I enjoy working at Alpena Community College as a TRiO Talent Search Advisor helping students learn about colleges, careers and how to pay for college.



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