

Scholarship Essay Writing Tips

Know the requirements and key themes within the scholarship essay. Read the scholarship requirements carefully and be sure you understand what the scholarship is asking.

Have a plan. Outline some notes for yourself including the message you want your essay to get across. Be sure that it aligns to what the scholarship essay is asking.

Brainstorm for ideas! List all your attributes/dreams and barriers that you might have overcome or that you are addressing now. Think of topics that highlight your strengths, creativity, struggles you've overcome, or an issue you're passionate about.

Write a unique essay for each scholarship application. Ask yourself "What makes you qualified for this award?" and write a unique essay for each scholarship application. Reviewers see through generic essays. Make your essay stand out by reflecting on experiences and offering your unique perspective. Tailor your essay toward the requirements of the scholarship or toward the organization sponsoring the scholarship.

Write a rough draft. Put words on paper and write a rough draft. It doesn't have to be perfect or even good, but it's the best place to start.

Write a better draft. Include anything you missed and remove anything that doesn't help make your point.

Triple-check your work. Use spell check and proofread carefully; however, don't simply rely on your computer grammar or spell check. Whatever you do, don't submit an essay with a grammatical error or typo. Double and triple check your work, and ask someone you trust to review it with fresh eyes.

Simplify your vocabulary. Long words and obscure vocabulary are not necessary, as they may come across as fake and showy. Big words do NOT make a good essay. Advanced vocabulary is fine only if it comes naturally to you.