



Scholarship Essay Writing Tips

- Read the instructions/prompt and make sure you understand them before you start.
- Brainstorm before you begin writing. See the attached page for some preparative questions and ideas.
- Write an outline first- Make sure this touches on every aspect required per the instructions.
- Use clear, concise and simple language throughout the essay.
- Ensure your body paragraphs explain the topic(s) presented in your introduction and your conclusion efficiently sums up your points.
- Exemplify your uniqueness. This can be your personal background, achievements, struggles, etc. This will not only make you stand out amongst other candidates but will allow the reader to better understand your story.
- State your accomplishments without coming across as if you're bragging.
- Avoid generic statements.
- Make sure your grammar and spelling are correct.
- Read the question again and then read your essay to be certain that the essay addresses every point.
- Have the USD Writing Center proofread the essay before you submit it. Visit their website for more information:
http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/writing_center/
- STAY POSITIVE!

Brainstorming Questions & Ideas



1. What are your major accomplishments, and why do you consider them accomplishments?
2. Does any attribute, quality, or skill distinguish you from everyone else? How did you develop this attribute?
3. Consider your favorite books, movies, works of art, etc. Have these influenced your life in a meaningful way? Why are they your favorites?
4. What was the most difficult time in your life, and why? How did your perspective on life change as a result of the difficulty?
5. Have you ever struggled mightily for something and succeeded? What made you successful?
6. Have you ever struggled mightily for something and failed? How did you respond?
7. Of everything in the world, what would you most like to be doing right now? Where would you most like to be? Who, of everyone living and dead, would you most like to be with? These questions should help you realize what you love most.
8. Have you experienced a moment of epiphany, as if your eyes were opened to something you were previously blind to?
9. What is your strongest, most unwavering personality trait? Do you maintain strong beliefs or adhere to a philosophy?
10. How would your friends characterize you? What would they write about if they were writing your scholarship essay for you?
11. What have you done outside of the classroom that demonstrates qualities sought after by universities? Of these, which means the most to you?
12. What are your most important extracurricular or community activities? What made you join these activities? What made you continue to contribute to them?
13. What are your dreams of the future? When you look back on your life in thirty years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What people, things, and accomplishments do you need? How does this particular scholarship fit into your plans for the future?