

Scholarship Writing Workshop

How to Earn that MONEY!



*Two Locations: In the Lyman Beecher Brooks Library, First Floor
and Madison 109*

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Scholarship Essay Types

They Are Not All the Same

“Tell us about yourself.”

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY OUTLINE

Need to write a scholarship essay?

Here is a basic outline that you can follow to help write an award-winning essay.

1. Introductory Sentence
 - a. State your full-name
 - b. State the name of the scholarship you are applying for.
2. Educational Objectives & Goals
 - a. State your major & why you selected it
 - b. State future goals
3. Brief Background
 - a. Tell about yourself
 - b. Give specific examples of your character
 - c. Highlight your interests including volunteer work & experience
4. Need
 - a. State why you need this scholarship
 - b. State how this scholarship will help you.
5. Conclusion
 - a. Highlight an item or two from your essay.
 - b. Thank the judges (optional)

Final Essay Tips

- Always read over the instructions & requirements of the scholarship
- Proofread your essay
- Keep the essay simple & short (no more than one to two pages)
- Refrain from being too wordy
- Don't write a generic essay for every scholarship
- Focus on your strengths

SOURCE:

<https://lake.wright.edu/sites/lake.wright.edu/files/page/attachments/Scholarship%20Essay%20Outline.pdf>

“How will this scholarship help you?”

“Tell us about a time where you demonstrated leadership.”

“Tell us about a time that you failed and what you learned from it.”

“Where do you see yourself in five years?”

“Tell us about a contribution you’ve made to your community.”

“What are your academic and professional goals?”

QUICK Tips

Getting Started

What Do I Write About?



Research the organizations offering the scholarships.

Find a connection with that organization. Mention hobbies, experiences and goals that match what the review committee is looking for.

If none exists, then focus elsewhere.

Respond to the scholarship essay prompt. Avoid going off topic.

If topic is your choice, then choose an idea from the following:

- 3 defining moments
- 2 critical choices
- 1 influential person

Review committees read many, many essays; make sure YOURS stands out.

Begin with a hook that blows them away; that makes them say, “Wow!”

Avoid overplaying sob stories.



Scholarship essay prompt:

Tell us about a time you learned about leadership.

Strong leadership skills
are important for many
reasons.



Vague and impersonal

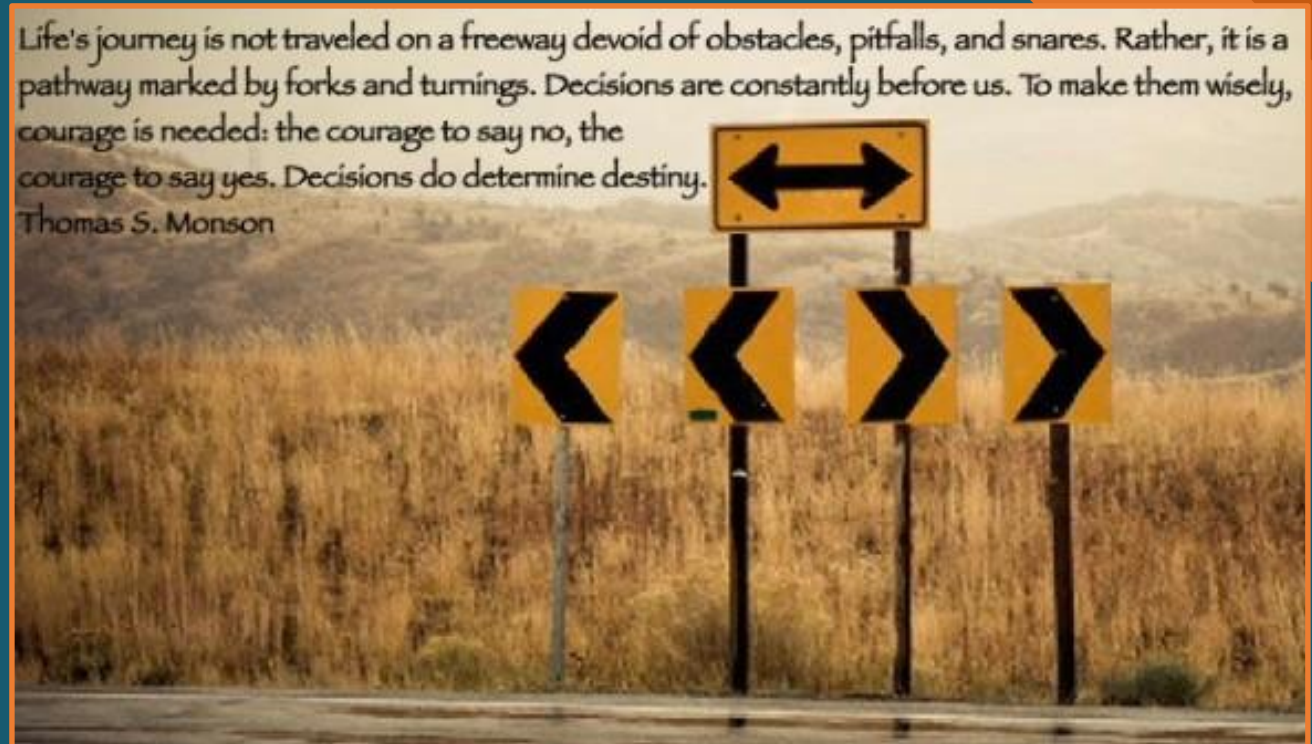
November 12 was the day I
lost everything.



personal, specific, and intriguing

Blitz Writing (aka known as prewriting)

- Choose **ONE** of these ideas and spend 10 minutes writing about it. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT GRAMMAR, SPELLING, ETC.
- JUST WRITE! 10 minutes
- Choices that made an impact on your life:
 - 1 influential person
OR
 - 1 critical choice you made in your life
OR
 - 1 defining moment



The Beauty of Writing Scholarship Essays is...



...that they are not your typical 5-paragraph essay you write in English class.

...that you get to write about something you are well-versed in—YOU!

...that you can get creative such as one- or two-sentence paragraphs, or even one-word paragraph. (just not too many)



Take a look around the room for models of successful scholarship essays. Pay close attention to the introductory paragraphs.

Additional Tips



ANSWER THE
ESSAY PROMPT
SPECIFICALLY

stay on topic



HAVE A POINT

otherwise known as a
thesis



IF YOUR ESSAY
GETS BORING TO
YOU,

then start again, but
enjoy the topic you
choose



IF ESSAY IS ABOUT
YOUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS,

brag, brag, brag



KEEP ESSAY IN A
POSITIVE MODE

Drafting

Introductory Paragraph

- Be able to determine a focus (thesis) for your essay; a theme/thread that weaves through the body of your essay.
- Use dialogue in your first sentence related to the event you will focus on.
- Start with a **word** or **phrase** that has a significance in the event you are relating.
- Start with the middle of the event and reveal the beginning and ending later in the body of essay.

Drafting the Body

- Be able to determine a focus (thesis) for your essay; a theme/thread that weaves through the body of your essay.
- **SHOW** us with vivid words; make it engaging.
- Use dialogue to add interest.
- Remember, you can create one-sentence or one-word paragraphs to manipulate your audience—*manipulating in a way that you determine what needs to be emphasized.*

Links to More Tips for Writing Scholarship Essays

<https://estcap.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Winning-Scholarship-Essay-Writing.pdf>

<https://sss.sd33.bc.ca/sites/sss.sd33.bc.ca/files/2019-10/How%20to%20Write%20a%20Winning%20Scholarship%20Essay.pdf>

<https://lake.wright.edu/sites/lake.wright.edu/files/page/attachments/Scholarship%20Essay%20Outline.pdf>

<https://scholarships360.org/scholarships/overview-of-common-scholarship-essay-prompts/>

<https://www.clatsopcc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/03-1-Dos-Donts-of-Essay-Writing.pdf>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/scholarship-essay-examples/>

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REFLECTION

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for students



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