

The Writing Center @ EOU

Six (6) Tips for Writing Scholarship Essays

Use the Writing Process

As with any writing, start by analyzing the prompt and brainstorming. When you have an idea of what you want to write, continue with an outline. Follow the outline with a rough draft and have a second set of eyes look over it for you. Take all the steps to make sure your final copy is as polished as possible.

Have a Strong Thesis

Many scholarship essay applications have specific prompts they want you to address. Draft a thesis that addresses the prompt and maps out the rest of your paper to follow.

Remember Your Writing Fundamentals

Be sure to include strong topic sentences, focused paragraphs, and varied sentence structure. Don't make your paper mechanical and boring by only using short simple sentences that list your skills. As always, make sure you use correct grammar and punctuation.

Know Your Audience and the Context of the Scholarship

Don't have a single generic scholarship essay for every application. If you are applying for a scholarship for future teachers, make sure you discuss why you want to teach and what makes you the best future teacher for this scholarship.

Apply Personality, but Keep it on Topic

Set yourself apart and show who you really are; show you are more than a test score and a GPA. Use personal experience to show your goals, skills, and what makes you the best candidate to receive the scholarship. Keep in mind, you don't want to seem like you are simply bragging. Avoid using exaggerations or hyperbole. Rather than saying you are a "fantastic and exceptional leader," say you have "good leadership skills" and then provide an example of your experience that backs this up.

Make Your Sentences Count

Most scholarship essays have word limitations. Don't be vague or abstract. Make sure your sentences are all to the point and provide information that will be useful to the person assessing your qualifications for the scholarship

Resources: [UC Irvine Scholarships Resource Center](#) and [Scholarships.com](#)