

WRITING AN ESSAY FOR YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

We understand that writing an essay can sometimes feel like a daunting task. The following tips and resources are provided to help guide you in crafting a clear, thoughtful, and compelling response.

1. Answer the prompt directly

Make sure every paragraph clearly connects to the question being asked. Avoid going off-topic.

2. Start with a strong hook

Open with something engaging, such as:

- A short personal story
- A meaningful moment
- A surprising detail about yourself
- Avoid generic openings like “I have always wanted to...”

3. Be specific and personal

Instead of saying “I’m hardworking,” show it through a real example. Include details about what happened and what you learned.

4. Show growth

Focus on progress and resilience:

- What challenges did you face?
- How did you handle them?
- What changed as a result?

5. Connect to your future

Briefly explain your goals and how the scholarship will help you reach them. Keep it clear and realistic.

6. Use your natural voice

Write in a way that sounds like you. Clear and simple language is better than overly complex wording.

7. Edit carefully

- Remove unnecessary words
- Stay within the word limit
- Read it out loud to catch awkward phrasing

8. Get feedback

Ask a teacher, counselor, or friend to review it. They can point out what works and what needs improvement.

9. Avoid common mistakes

- Clichés
- Repeating your resume
- Spelling and grammar errors
- Being too vague

LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE TIPS? HERE ARE A FEW RESOURCES WE HAVE REVIEWED:

- **University of Cincinnati:** <https://www.uc.edu/news/articles/2025/09/scholarship-essay-tips.html>
- **University of Florida:** <https://finaid.med.ufl.edu/scholarships/writing-the-scholarship-essay/>