

# Scholarship Essay Worksheet

Use this worksheet to help develop ideas for topics and ideas for your scholarship essay, and to help create a basic outline once you are ready to start writing

## Consider the following prompts:

### ***Leadership or Community Service-***

1. Do you have any leadership or community service experience? What got you involved in this?
2. What have you learned from this experience? How did this shape you as a student?

### ***Personal Accomplishments/Experiences-***

1. Is there a specific obstacle that you have overcome that you are proud of?
2. Is there a specific time/event in your life that had a major impact on you?
3. What accomplishments or goals have you met that make you stand out?

### ***Educational Path-***

1. Why did you choose your course of study, and what are you hoping to do with it?
2. Why are you particularly in need of this scholarship? What will it help you do?
3. How has your family impacted your decisions about college or your chosen degree field?

# Ready to start writing?

**Determine the theme of your essay:** After filling out the prompts provided, determine which (if any) of those topics stand out, that you want to write your essay about.

**After picking your theme, create a thesis statement for you essay:** Typically this will contain a few topics that will support the theme of your essay.

**Create a list of main points:** Brainstorm! These main points will end up in the **body** paragraphs of your essay. Your body paragraphs can include:

- Personal stories or examples to back up your theme and thesis of the essay
- Reasons why you need and deserve this scholarship
- How will a scholarship and/or degree help you achieve your long-term goals
- Make sure your main points are organized in a flow that will make sense to the reader

**Create your outline:** After you've determined your theme, thesis and main points of your essay, organize them in an outline before you start writing. This will help you make sure each idea you want to use can be fully explained in your essay.

## Sample Basic Outline

### **I. Introductory Paragraph:**

1. Begin your essay with an interesting sentence or two that will capture the reader's attention.
2. Include basic information about yourself that will help further explain the purpose of your essay.
3. Reveal your thesis statement. This should be a summary of the main points you will touch on in your essay and establishes the direction the essay is going to go.

### **II. Body Paragraphs:**

1. First main Idea:
  - a. Supporting evidence for first idea
2. Second main idea:
  - a. Supporting evidence for second idea
3. Third main idea:
  - a. Supporting evidence for third main idea

### **III. Conclusion:**

1. Close your essay by summarizing the points you've made in the body of the essay, and rephrasing your thesis statement
2. Wrap up the essay by reaffirming to the reader why you will be a worthy scholarship recipient.

### Writing tips for great essays

-Use Concrete examples in your essay: X "I'm a great student"

✓ "I'm an excellent student because I've always found unique ways to connect the material to the real world. For example...."

- Be creative and honest. Make sure you use words that are your own.

-Make sure that your essay flows well. Include transitions between paragraphs and proofread when you're done!

- The writing center is available to help review your completed essay for content and grammar.