

Drafting an Exceptional Scholarship Essay

Questions for drafting/refining your scholarship essay: Choose any of these questions that connect to a part of your essay prompt and draft a detailed answer for each using the outline provided.

1. Who have been the major influences in your life?
2. What past experiences, good and bad, have made you who you are today?
3. What have you already accomplished in your life?
4. What obstacles have you overcome to make those accomplishments?
5. What are your goals?
6. Why are these goals important to you?
7. What in your life reflects your ability to make and keep a commitment?
8. Why do you need this scholarship?
9. How will it make a difference in your life?
10. What makes you special and unique?
11. What about you makes you the perfect fit for this scholarship?

Your introduction can start with a story from your past or present, a story that illustrates some important aspect of your life or personality.

OR, your introduction can begin with a short biographical sketch about where you are from.

OR, your introduction can discuss a goal that the scholarship can help you achieve.

Your thesis is simply a statement that tells your readers exactly what main points your essay is making. Don't write your thesis until you finish drafting your body paragraphs. That way, you will know what your essay contains.

(Bad) This essay is about what a great person I am and why I deserve this scholarship

(Good) I am a good candidate for this scholarship because I am a successful first generation college student with a demonstrated passion for learning and for serving others in the medical field.

Your conclusion should make your essay feel finished.

Wrap it up with a couple of sentences

You can include how your education so far has made a difference

You can thank the committee for considering your application

Avoid anything too lofty or idealistic like "With this scholarship, I can change the world."

Use the outline template on the back of this worksheet to draft and organize your ideas.