

Your Scholarship Essay

Tell the Story of You

The Basics

- Keep it simple
- Don't use three words when one will do
- Don't over write
- Don't brag or over market
- Do tell about your accomplishments
- Be clear

Keep it neat

- Use a Word processing program to type your essay
- Spell check, spell check, spell check
- Review for correct usage of words, for example; two, to, too, it's
- Organize your thoughts
- Write as though you're talking to the selection committee

Sit down and take the time to think about:

- Who are you?
- Why are you who you are?
- What are you doing?
- What have you done?
- Where are you now?
- Where are you going?
- How are you going to get there?
- Why do you need a scholarship?
- How will it make a difference?

Jot down notes!

The Outline

The Introductory Sentence (standalone paragraph)

The thesis is that you are in the middle of your own story. The past has made you who you are in the present and from here you can see the future where you will accomplish some good and definite goals. Tell us who you are, that's the story of you.

Body Paragraphs

Educational plan and Career Goals:

What is your major?

Why did you choose this major?

What will you do with it?

What career path have you chosen?

Why you have chosen this career?

How do you intend to meet those goals?

Did something or someone happen to influence your career decision?

What inspires you to achieve your educational and career goals?

How do you know you'll succeed?

Conclusion

Be focused, return to something from your first paragraph or reiterate your goal. Be humble, you plan to work hard to get there but you believe in yourself. Be grateful, you realize it took time for someone to read your essay, and you appreciate it.

Writing your Essay!

After you write your essay, go back and look what you've written. Read it for form and content. At this point, it is probably too long. What can you cut; what can you incorporate? Make some notes, have a cup of coffee, take a nap, take a walk. Do something different, and leave it alone for a while. Overnight is good.

Edit and tighten it up

- Spell check.
- Is it redundant? Are you too brief?
- Go back and look at the outline.
- Does this paper represent YOU?
- Have a friend, teacher or tutor read it.
- Is it you? What do you think?

Caution: Don't over edit so that the paper does not sound like you anymore.

Are you done? Do you like it?

Let it sit again overnight. Re-read it (spell check).

Do you like it? Is it you?

If yes, submit your scholarship essay.