
“HINTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP PREPARATION”

Start early, read application and PAY ATTENTION TO INSTRUCTIONS. Remember, this application is your responsibility. Poorly planned and poorly written essays containing grammatical and spelling errors stand out and negatively reflect on you.

Scholarship sponsors are looking for specific information contained in essays you are requested to write, as well as letters of recommendation others are requested to write about you. Pay attention to what the essays and letters of recommendation ask for.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION show how other people view you. Persons who write letters of recommendation want to write a good letter, but need input from you to do so. Provide the author guidelines, set forth by the sponsor in the application, to adequately address specific points the sponsor deems important for the scholarship. Lacking guidelines, the author can only provide generic information often overlooking important traits pertinent to the scholarship.

ESSAYS are a self portrait you create to show sponsors you possess characteristics they desire in scholarship applicants. Essays should be honest, truthful and present a positive image. Everyone faces challenges in life, and using the essay to tell a sponsor about these challenges is important and acceptable. More important is relating why your life challenges are different than all others. Talk about positive successes over life challenges, and how dealing with adversity molded personal character traits, make you the best choice for the scholarship. Write productively, never counterproductively.

You are better prepared from what you have done in your life for the scholarship than you realize.

- List your achievements, jobs, awards (both educational and non educational) and how they apply.
- List situations and people in your life that have impacted your life in a positive or negative way, and why.
- List and explain character building examples (i.e. a single mother works two jobs to support family and what that taught you).
- Apply the information you listed to the scholarship you are pursuing.
- Make a rough draft.
- Proof and revise the rough draft.
- Have trusted persons who know you critique your work. The best writers have the worst critics; some close friends and/or family members often lack the critical objectivity you are looking for.
- Submit signed complete application including all requested information by deadline date.

GOOD LUCK