



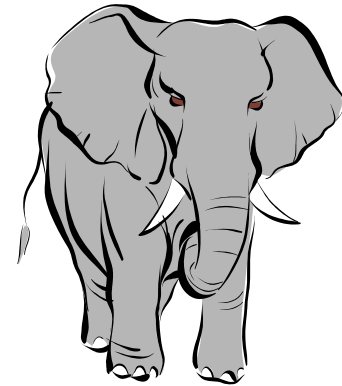
GETTING SOME GREEN!

How to write a winning
scholarship application

1 bite
at a
time!

How to eat an elephant?

- Search for scholarships
- Find ones that match your:
 - Interests or abilities
 - Location
 - Demographics
 - Other qualifications
- Collect: basic info about yourself, list of accomplishments and service, transcripts & most recent tax info
- Read through apps or FAQs first!



Approach it like a job

- A short term job
- Could be highest paying hourly job ever!
- Set aside time each day until finished
- Privacy is very helpful
- Write out some bullet points beforehand
- Have someone check your work
- Pat yourself on the back after SUBMIT!



7 basic parts of a scholarship application

1. Demographics
2. Yes/No questions
3. If/Then questions
4. Essay
5. Reference letter(s)
6. Acceptance
7. Thank you notes

Demographics

- You know you best
- Answer honestly
- *Examples:*
 - Name
 - Address
 - Year graduated from high school or GED
 - College program or career you are pursuing
 - May qualify you for some scholarships



Yes/No questions

- Answer honestly
- Answer as many as you can
- These definitely can qualify yc consideration
- *Examples:*
 - Are you related to a veteran?
 - Are you a single mother?



If/Then questions



- Some scholarships will ask questions like:
 - *Do you have relatives who have been incarcerated or have you been incarcerated?*
 - *If Yes, continue with the next question.*
 - *If No, skip to question #4.*
 - *These are specific qualifying questions.*
 - *Again, answer honestly – donors check*



THE ESSAY – breaking it down

1. Make sure it fits the donor's theme
2. Answer the underlying question
3. Tell your story – share a slice of life
4. Show some passion in your writing
5. Be specific
6. Have a thesis statement – a clear point
7. Avoid the sob story
8. Show positive energy
9. Find someone to read your essay(s)
10. An hour or two can win you \$100's or \$1,000's!

#1 – Essay Fits the Donor's Theme

- What is the theme?
- Usually determined by the purpose of the award
- Why the organization is giving away \$
- If you write a conflicting message (and/or don't list your service projects), you may be eliminated.
- *Example: The donor awards \$ based on community service, but you write only about the work you have done at your retail job.*

#2 – Essay answers underlying question

- It's a springboard to answer the real question
- You are competing! Set yourself apart!
- *Example:*
 - *Q: Why do you want to study business?*
 - *REAL Q: Why do you want to study business, and why are you the BEST future business person we should help with our hard-earned money?*

#3 – Essay shares a slice of life

- If you are explaining why you deserve to win....
- It's also important to reveal something about yourself
- Just one aspect of your life
- *Example: If writing about your community service involvement, write succinctly about one related experience*
- Can refer to an attached list, or insert a list at the bottom of paragraph

#4 – Essay shows your passion

- Choose a topic for which you are genuinely enthusiastic
- Don't pick a subject you'd have to fake interest in
- Start with "one true sentence" (Ernest Hemingway)
- The rest of the sentences will flow
- Convey your excitement or passion!

#5 – Essay is specific

- “Be Pacific, like the Specific Ocean!”
- (ignore that)
- Don’t use general statements
- *Example:*
 - *Don’t write “Education is the key to success.”*
 - *Write: Some slice of your life that shows how education has impacted your life. If you want to study to be an astronaut, talk about how your father bought you a model rocket for a gift when you were five years old.*

#6 – Essay has a thesis statement

- Have a clear point
- Can you write it in a single sentence?
- *Examples:*
 - *Essay on Independence = “Growing up in the country taught me to be independent.”*
 - *Essay on health care for the elderly = “Training family caregivers is essential to improving the lives of the elderly and avoiding burnout for the caregiver.”*

#7 – Essay builds on your accomplishments

- Impress the “judges” – you’re the best!
- The essay supplements the list
- Don’t just “parrot” back the application
- Focus on a specific accomplishment
- *Example: List shows that you were a stage manager for a play; your essay explains that you also had to build and design the sets in just one week. Shows the significance of your achievement.*

#8 – Essay avoids a sob story

- Save tear jerkers for TV specials and songs
- Rarely win scholarships – want solutions
- *Example - Don't write: "I deserve \$ because of the suffering I've been through. Here's the list...." Join the crowd.*
- *Write: What have you accomplished despite these hardships? Have you overcome challenges? That makes you stand out!*

#9 – Essay shows positive energy!

- “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.”
- Everyone likes an uplifting story
- With your entire future ahead of you, describe your enthusiasm and zest for life!
- If you ACT enthusiastic, you will BE enthusiastic!
- Makes donor excited about giving money to help you pursue your passion for changing the world.

#10 – Essay is proof read

- “Behind every good writer is an even better editor.”
- Don't need a professional, just someone who can read your work and provide useful and constructive (how to fix it) feedback
- But, don't lose your “voice” in the editing

You can't win if you don't play!



- Most scholarship applications include at least one essay
 - Don't skip it
 - Or else, you'll get bounced out for sure
- Use these 10 tips and...
 - You might win hundreds, if not thousands of dollars for college!
- Take a break if you are getting burned out – but come back, finish and submit!!

Reference Letters

- The SCC Foundation application lets you request reference letters **via email**
 - You can check back on your account to see if they have been sent (save your username and password!)
 - **One letter is REQUIRED**
 - Two or more letters would be BETTER



Acceptance of Award(s)

- Within a few weeks after deadline, check back on your SCC email account (save your user name and password!)
 - The SCC Foundation or Next Gen will send you a notification of award
- Go to the SCCF scholarship website, log in, and follow steps to accept.



Thank You – Notes & Reception!

- REQUIRED step to accept your award(s)!
- Scholarships will not be loaded onto your college account until you have written and submitted your online thank you note
- Best way to thank your donor is IN PERSON at the **required Donor/Recipient Reception**, Sunday, November 16, 2-4 PM in SCC Loren Walker Arena/Gym.



Sources & references

- How to Write a Winning Scholarship Essay by Jen & Kelly Tenabe – www.supercollege.com
http://www.supercollege.com/guide/guide.cfm?t_id=2&g_id=21&step=1
- Scholarships & other aid
 - <http://www.scciowa.edu/admissions/costaidscholar/index.aspx>
 - www.fastweb.com
 - <http://www.scciowa.edu/foundation/supportsc/scholarsgrants/index.aspx>
 - <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
- FAFSA – <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

SCC Foundation Scholarship Application – see sample

- Staying at SCC another semester?
 - Apply by October 1 for Spring term award(s)
- Returning in Fall 2015?
 - Apply by April 1 for full-year award(s)

https://scciowa.scholarships.ngwebsolutions.com/CMXAdmin/Cmx_Content.aspx?cpld=751

Transfer Scholarships

- After you graduate from SCC
- <https://www.scciova.edu/scripts/admissions/financialaid/alumscholapp.asp>

Let's try an essay using SCCF application:

- My career goal is:
 - What is motivating you to go into your field of choice?
- Here's how a Foundation scholarship will assist me in meeting my life's goals:
- High school and/or college curricular/extra-curricular/community activities in which I have participated (provide a list or statement):

Questions?

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