



# GETTING SOME GREEN!

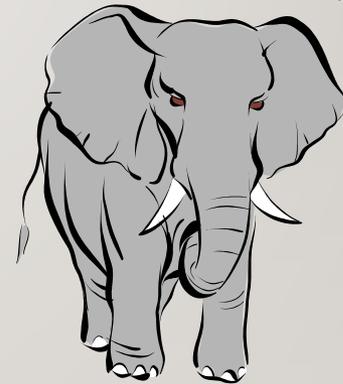
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HOW TO WRITE A WINNING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## 2 HOW TO EAT AN ELEPHANT?

One bite  
at a time!

- 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!



### 3 APPROACH IT LIKE A JOB

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- 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!**



## 4 7 BASIC PARTS OF A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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

# 5 DEMOGRAPHICS

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- 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



## 6 YES/NO QUESTIONS

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



# 7 IF/THEN QUESTIONS

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- 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

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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!

## 9 #1 – ESSAY FITS THE DONOR'S THEME

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- 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.*

# 10 #2 – ESSAY ANSWERS UNDERLYING QUESTION

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- 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

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- 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

## 12 #4 – ESSAY SHOWS YOUR PASSION

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- 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!

# 13 #5 – ESSAY IS SPECIFIC

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- 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.*

# 14 #6 – ESSAY HAS A THESIS STATEMENT

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- 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.”*

# 15 #7 – ESSAY BUILDS ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- 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.*

# 16 #8 – ESSAY AVOIDS A SOB STORY

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- 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!*

# 17 #9 – ESSAY SHOWS POSITIVE ENERGY!

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- “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.

## 18 #10 – ESSAY IS PROOF READ

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- “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

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# YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T PLAY!



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- 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!!

## 20 REFERENCE LETTERS

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- 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**



## 21 ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD(S)

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- 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.



## 22 THANK YOU – NOTES & RECEPTION!

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- 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.



## 23 SOURCES & REFERENCES

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- How to Write a Winning Scholarship Essay by Jen & Kelly Tenabe  
– [www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com)

[http://www.supercollege.com/guide/guide.cfm?t\\_id=2&g\\_id=21&step=1](http://www.supercollege.com/guide/guide.cfm?t_id=2&g_id=21&step=1)

- Scholarships & other aid
  - <http://www.scciowa.edu/admissions/costaid/scholar/index.aspx>
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - <http://www.scciowa.edu/foundation/supportscc/scholarsgrants/index.aspx>
  - <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
- FAFSA – <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

## 24 SCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION – SEE SAMPLE

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- Staying at SCC another semester?
  - Apply by September 1st for Spring term award(s)
- Returning in Fall
  - Apply by April 1st for full-year award(s)
- [https://www.scciowa.edu/foundation/sccf\\_scholarships.aspx](https://www.scciowa.edu/foundation/sccf_scholarships.aspx)

# 25 TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS

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- After you graduate from SCC
- <https://www.scciowa.edu/alumni/sccaa/index.aspx>

## 26 LET'S TRY AN ESSAY USING SCCF APPLICATION:

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- 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):

## 27 QUESTIONS?

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