

Scholarship Essay Worksheet

There are no strict guidelines that can be applied to all scholarship applications. The key is to carefully read the directions and answer each question completely. Use this worksheet in developing ideas for scholarship applications that require essays.

An outline of a typical scholarship essay is provided on the third page.

Introductory Paragraph

The introduction to should be written like a typical essay; however, you will want to make sure to include something to help you stand out. The thesis in an application essay should be succinct, a road map of what you will discuss in your essay, and an opportunity to promote your application to the scholarship committee. Typically the thesis will contain three topics that support why you are an ideal candidate.

Creating a thesis statement for the introductory paragraph. *Begin brainstorming by completing these statements:*

I believe I am an excellent candidate for this scholarship because _____

This scholarship opportunity will enable me to _____

I am a uniquely deserving candidate for this scholarship because _____

Consider including the following ideas as three of your thesis topics:

- Who you are.** What makes you unique? _____


- Values.** What is important to you? What has guided you in making the decisions that got you to where you are now? _____
- Your world view.** Have you helped change things for the better? Do you have plans to make things better? Are you involved in your community? Have you interned or traveled abroad with your school? _____
- Accomplishments.** Have you overcome obstacles? Have you participated in campus activities, clubs, or community volunteering? Do you have a GPA that is strong? _____


- Your goals.** What do you hope to accomplish short-term and long-term? _____

- Your commitment to your goals.** What things have you done that aided you in towards reaching your goals? _____
- Your need.** Why are you particularly in need of this scholarship? What will this scholarship help you do? _____

Concrete Examples

Use concrete example in your essay. Do not simply tell the scholarship committee that you are an excellent student, **explain how and give examples.**

 I am an excellent student.

 I excel as a student because I find unique ways to connect with the material while helping others. For example, I volunteer through the social work club at the homeless shelter. I am able to see real-world examples of what we are learning in our classes while making a difference in my community. In addition, I organized study groups in each of my classes this semester. I strengthened my knowledge of the subject while helping fellow classmates understand the material.

Action Words

Use action words to help you form descriptive sentences. Reading through the list may help you develop your essay ideas.

Accelerated	Conferred	Fabricated	Moderated	Referred	Started
Accomplished	Constructed	Facilitated	Monitored	Regulated	Stimulated
Achieved	Contributed	Familiarized	Motivated	Rehabilitated	Strategized
Adapted	Converted	Focused	Negotiated	Reinforced	Streamlined
Added	Coordinated	Founded	Operated	Remodeled	Strengthened
Addressed	Created	Gained	Organized	Reorganized	Stressed
Administered	Decided	Generated	Originated	Repaired	Stretched
Advanced	Decreased	Guided	Overhauled	Reported	Structured
Advised	Delegated	Handled	Oversaw	Represented	Succeeded
Allocated	Delivered	Identified	Participated	Researched	Summarized
Analyzed	Demonstrated	Illustrated	Performed	Resolved	Supervised
Arranged	Derived	Imagined	Persuaded	Restored	Supported
Assembled	Designed	Implemented	Planned	Restructured	Surveyed
Assigned	Determined	Improved	Predicted	Retrieved	Tabulated
Assisted	Developed	Increased	Prepared	Revamped	Taught
Attained	Devised	Influenced	Presented	Reversed	Tested
Audited	Diagnosed	Informed	Prioritized	Reviewed	Traced
Authored	Directed	Initiated	Processed	Revised	Tracked
Broadened	Discovered	Innovated	Produced	Revitalized	Trained
Budgeted	Dispensed	Inspected	Programmed	Saved	Transferred
Built	Displayed	Installed	Projected	Scheduled	Transformed
Calculated	Distinguished	Instructed	Promoted	Screened	Translated
Catalogued	Distributed	Integrated	Proposed	Selected	Traveled
Chaired	Eliminated	Interpreted	Proved	Served	Trimmed
Changed	Enabled	Interviewed	Provided	Serviced	Turned
Charted	Encouraged	Introduced	Publicized	Shaped	Uncovered
Clarified	Engineered	Invented	Published	Simplified	Unified
Classified	Enhanced	Investigated	Purchased	Sketched	Updated
Coached	Established	Launched	Raised	Sold	Upgraded
Compiled	Evaluated	Led	Realized	Solidified	Utilized
Completed	Examined	Located	Recommended	Solved	Validated
Composed	Exhibited	Maintained	Recorded	Sparked	Verified
Computed	Expanded	Managed	Recruited	Specified	Visualized
Conceived	Explained	Marketed	Redesigned	Spoke	Web-authored
Conceptualized	Expressed	Measured	Reduced	Staffed	Widened
Conducted	Extracted	Mediated	Re-engineered	Standardized	Won

Suggested Basic Outline

Paragraph One: Introductory Paragraph

1. Consider starting with an interesting “hook” that catches your reader’s attention.
2. Add supporting details to your hook or basic information about you related to the scholarship.
3. Create a solid thesis statement
 - The thesis should be succinct and should reflect why you are an ideal candidate for this scholarship.
 - It should also state the topics of your future paragraphs (typically three) which describes the *proof* that you are the best candidate.

Paragraph Two: First Supporting Paragraph

1. This should be directly reflected in your thesis and is typically the first topic mentioned in the thesis.
2. Add supporting details with concrete examples.
3. Create a linking sentence to the next topic.

Paragraph Three: Second Supporting Paragraph

1. This should be directly reflected in your thesis and is typically the second topic mentioned.
2. Add supporting details with concrete examples.
3. Create a linking sentence to the next topic.

Paragraph Four: Third Supporting Paragraph

1. This should be directly reflected in your thesis and is typically the third topic within the thesis.
2. Add supporting details with concrete examples.
3. Create a linking sentence to the conclusion.

Paragraph Five: Conclusion - *Bringing it home*

1. Restate why you are the best candidate, or rephrase your thesis statement.
2. Summarize the three proofs or topics of your essay
3. Leave the scholarship committee with an impression that reaffirms why you are the best candidate.

Remember to always send a thank you note after you are selected. 😊