

Sterling Scholar Sample Questions for all Categories

***GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

- What will you do with this scholarship?
- Tell us about yourself in 30 seconds.
- How will your leadership help you in the future?
- How will you continue to lead in the future?
- Why do you want to be a Sterling Scholar?
- What do you have planned as a career?
- Tell us about your leadership skills.
- What kind of education are you planning after high school?
- What motivates you?
- Who is your hero?
- What do you do in your free time?
- How do you think your involvement in this category will enrich your life?
- Where do you see yourself in ten years?
- What kind of things would you like to accomplish in your life?
- What is your proudest moment?
- What is the most difficult class you have ever taken?
- What makes you stand out among the other applicants?
- What is the most important activity to you that is in your portfolio?
- Why do you want to be a Sterling Scholar?
- Why are YOU the Sterling Scholar?
- What do you think about the Sterling Scholar program?
- What qualities do you have that got you nominated as a Sterling Scholar?
- What would this award/scholarship do for you?
- Why are good grades important?
- What are your future plans?
- Why did you choose this Sterling Scholar category over another?
- What do you want people to remember about you?
- Where do you plan on attending college?
- What are you planning on majoring in?
- What do you want to become?
- What is your greatest strength?
- Anything else we didn't ask and wasn't in your portfolio that you would like us to know?
- Where do you see yourself in five years? 10 years?
- It seems like you do a lot of different things. How do you deal with all of it and the stress that comes with it?
- How do you do everything you do?
- You put this portfolio together months ago. What have you accomplished since then that you would like to share with us?
- What attributes do you have that have brought you to where you are today as a Sterling Scholar?
- What's the one thing you want us to remember about you?
- Are there any questions you think we should have asked?
- Tell us about a challenge you have had in high school.
- What question should we have asked you so that you?
- Who is your most influential teacher in high school?
- What, in your opinion, defines success?
- What lifetime challenges have you had?

- What is your favorite high school memory?
- Why should we choose you?
- What has been your biggest hurdle in Sterling Scholar?
- What activity gives you the most satisfaction?
- Which of your projects are you most proud of?
- Who is your role model, and why?
- How do you manage your academic and extracurricular activities?
- What was your biggest academic challenge?
- What would the scholarship money do for you?
- What makes a good leader, in your opinion?
- How do you stay motivated?
- What are your future plans, and how are they related to your sterling scholar category?
- If you were the interviewer, what would you ask? Please answer your question.
- Tell us about a time you made a mistake and how you recovered from it.
- What background do you have?
- What future careers do you see yourself in?
- What made you interested in the Sterling Scholar Program? Why are you here?
- What has been most difficult in your various leadership positions?

***SERVICE QUESTIONS:**

- How have you been involved in the community?
- How has your service affected you?
- How does service affect your daily life?
- What have you learned from your service experience?
- What has been the most meaningful service project, and what was its effect on you?
- How did you find out about this type of project?
- Describe your service activities.
- What service projects are you currently planning?
- What service projects have you organized yourself?
- What service opportunity has made the most impact on your life?
- Tell us about your community service.
- How will you continue to serve your community?
- What have you done to give back to your community?
- What community service was most valuable to you and why?
- What has been your favorite part of community service, and how are you going to continue to serve your community?

***LEADERSHIP QUESTIONS:**

- What do you believe is your greatest leadership quality?
- What has been your most frustrating leadership task?
- What does leadership mean to you?
- Elaborate on your leadership qualities.
- What have you learned from your leadership experience?
- What makes you a good leader?
- When it comes to leadership, what are two of your strengths and two of your weaknesses?
- What leadership positions have you held?
- How have you handled conflicts as a leader?
- What is one-word people would use to describe you as a leader?
- What are you most proud of in leadership?

- What leadership qualities have you developed this year?
- What was a significant leadership position that you have been in, and how has it affected you?
- What is your greatest leadership achievement?
- Do you think leadership is learned, or are you born with it?
- What is the most important quality of a good leader?
- Tell us about a time when you had to use leadership in conjunction with your community service.
- What is your favorite thing about being a leader?

***AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE:**

- What kind of changes would you make in Manti's Ag classes?
- Describe your service activities.
- What has been your most challenging college class?
- What are some tasks you perform on the farm?
- Tell me about the operations that are performed on the ranch.
- What do you like about the agricultural environment?
- Why agricultural science?
- What do you plan to do with agricultural science in the future?
- What are the big issues in agriculture?
- If the president of the United States called you and asked you to be his secretary of agriculture, where would you focus your time?
- How did you manage good grades and Ag?
- What have you learned about animal health?
- How has Ag been prevalent in your life?
- What benefit auctions have been done for the community?
- Tell us about one challenge of FFA leadership.
- How have shooting competitions helped you?
- How would you strengthen the relationship between ranchers and farmers?
- What have you learned from your particular sport?
- What are your future plans in this field?
- What skills have you developed from your business?

***BUSINESS:**

- How does leadership relate to business?
- What type of business have you been involved in?
- What has service done for your business?
- Can you explain to us what FBLA is about?
- In your own words, what is "business"?
- What is the most difficult thing to handle in business?
- Tell about a time you lead a service project and how you marketed it.
- Tell about the leadership skills you've acquired that will help you in business.
- Explain to us what role business has in society.
- What was your favorite business class?
- Why do you want to be a Business and Marketing sterling scholar?
- What did you learn from the marketing and business classes that you've taken?
- What type of promotion did you do with your retailing class?
- Who is a business leader you look up to?
- How did/does community service affect business?
- What accomplishments in community service and business are you most proud of?
- Who is a business leader you look up to?
- Tell us about one service project you took charge of.

***COMPUTER & INFO TECH:**

- What do you do best computer-wise?
- How has computer technology helped you with your challenges in life?
- How have you applied your computer skills outside of school and work?
- How has the availability of computers changed education?
- How would you best describe your computer expertise?
- What do you like about technology? Why?
- What is your favorite computer language?
- How can you apply your knowledge of computers to benefit your community and the world?
- What technological trends do you find most intriguing?
- What kind of technology do you think your children will be using?
- Which computer platform/operating system do you prefer and why?
- Where do you think AI is going in the future?
- Tell us details about programming languages.
- What program language do you know?
- What is the difference between an Array and a Linked list?
- Who is your favorite character in Mario Kart and Kart set up?
- What was your broadcasting set up?

***DANCE:**

- Choose a shape and dance to what emotion you feel from it.
- What was your choreography process like?
- What do you plan on doing with dance in the future?
- What is your solo about?
- What was the hardest thing you've had to overcome with dance?
- What was the hardest/most important lesson you have learned from dance?
- What do you think is important when choreographing?
- Is it important for dancers to get good grades, and why?
- What does it mean to be in dance academics?
- Who is your favorite choreographer, and why?
- How does being a musician help you with dance?
- Which dancer, dead or alive, would you want to take classes from?
- How has community service benefitted you?
- What are your plans after high school?
- How would your friends describe you?

***ENGLISH:**

- What is your favorite writing style?
- Who are your favorite authors?
- What influences your writing?
- What was your best-written piece about?
- Tell us how to write poetry.
- Who/what is your favorite poet/poem?
- Favorite non-fiction book?
- Favorite author and fiction book?
- If you wrote a story about today's generation, what would you write about and how would you write it?
- How do you think English teachers should get kids excited about reading?

- Who is your favorite author?
- What book has influenced you the most in your life?
- What book/author should be required in the school system?
- How do you think you'll continue to impact people positively through your writing?
- Tell us who you are in 30 seconds.
- Do you have any questions for us?

***FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES:**

- What is your favorite thing to make?
- What is your best or favorite accomplishment in the community or at your school?
- Why should FACS not be cut from school curriculums?
- How has technology changed fashion/design?
- What experiences have you had with FCCLA?
- What would your FACS teachers say about you?
- What prompted you to take all the FACS classes?
- How will the things you've learned affect your job in the future?
- Why did you become interested in FACS?
- Tell us about your projects.
- What have you done to give back to your community?
- What has been your favorite class?
- What FACS classes would you add to your high school?
- Why should high schools keep FACS classes?
- What will your major be?
- What service items impacted you most and what do you want to talk about
- What would you say to the school board about FACS classes?

***GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP:**

- What do you know about CO2 and how can we help global warming?
- What is an impactful period of history you know about?
- Why did you choose to be the General Sterling Scholar?
- When was the fall of the Roman Empire?
- Describe the structure of an atom.
- What is the earliest civilization you can think of?
- What do you know about Ancient Greece?
- What is one of your favorite books?
- Who is your favorite composer? Favorite type of music?
- Are there areas of learning you're not interested in?
- Describe the universe.
- Tariffs are a big deal lately, explain them.

***MATH:**

- How will math affect technology in the future?
- What do you like about math?
- How do you apply math in your life?
- What role does math play in everyday life?
- What is the greatest math accomplishment in history?
- What is your biggest failure in math?
- What are the similarities between math and art?

- Why choose math? What does it mean to you?
- What is your greatest achievement in the area of mathematics?
- How have you used math with your leadership opportunities?
- Logic reasoning examples with doors.
- Ring temperature model.
- Find the length of a chord in a circle
- Delta epsilons
- A rubrics' cube is 3x3 and has 26 visible sides on the outside. How many visible unit cubes are inside a 10x10 cube?
- Draw a triangle with one side 5, another side 12 and the angle they make 60° . What is the perimeter?
- What is the probability of getting a prime number when 2 dice are thrown?
- How to find 4 gallons of water with a 3 gallon bucket and 5 gallon bucket?
- How do you apply Math to your leadership opportunities?
- You excel at math but what are you not good at?
- Why are you the best candidate?
- What are you planning on doing as a career?
- How would knowing math give you a head start in a career?
- Tell us about how to tutor young kids with using criticism
- Make an equation that equals 100, using four 7's and one 1

***MUSIC:**

- Where do you see your future in music?
- What service have you done through music?
- How can you advocate music in schools?
- What key is this in?
- If you could play another instrument, what would it be?
- What inspired you to play your instrument?
- What was the hardest obstacle you had to overcome to develop your talent?
- How did the piece you played make you feel and what did it make you think of?
- How will you strive to keep your standards and values as you pursue a career in performing?
- Why did you choose your piece? Why do you like it?
- What service have you done through music?
- How can you advocate music in schools amidst budget cuts and such?
- How do you apply jazz band to orchestra?
- How long have you been working on your piece?
- What instruments do you play?
- How is playing your concerto with the piano different from playing with the orchestra?
- What has your instructor told you are your greatest strengths?
- How have the groups you're a part of impacted your view of music?
- What are your plans after you graduate from High School?

***SCIENCE:**

- How can we improve the literature of science?
- How has and can science affect your community?
- What is one of your ah-ha moments in life? In science?
- What is your favorite subject in science?
- Tell us about science in the news? New discoveries?
- What was your favorite biology subject?

- What science related community service have you done?
- How do you feel about your high school science education?
- What research have you done?
- How did your family affect your science interest?
- Why are you interested in science?
- What is science?
- What are some ethical issues with science?
- What future technologies do you think will influence our society?
- How could you make recent science breakthroughs well known to the population?
- Why do you like science?
- Tell us about your Science Olympiad events.
- Tell us about your most recent science discovery.
- What was your favorite biology subject?
- How can what you learned in biology relate to you wanting to go into the medical field?
- What is the difference between cellular respiration and photosynthesis?
- What is your background in science?
- What awards have you received?
- What research have you done?
- Who was your most influential teacher?
- What science are you involved in outside of school?
- Do you believe science experiments should be limited or not?
- What qualities should a good scientist have?
- What do you want us to remember about you?
- What was the Science discovery that sparked your interest?
- How have you impacted the community?

***SOCIAL SCIENCE:**

- Why is the U.S. a global melting pot?
- What role does social science play in the world? Why?
- How do you feel about cultural diversity, and how do you benefit from it?
- What news stories are you following?
- What world or other events do you stay up on?
- What are the benefits and negative aspects of living in a rural community?
- What foreign affairs concern you?
- What are the political advantages and disadvantages from living in a rural community?
- How do you help diverse groups of people?
- If you could meet any person, dead or alive, who would you choose, and more importantly, what would you ask him/her?
- What is one social issue we are faced with today?
- What do you think the Founding Fathers' purpose was in writing the Constitution?
- What role do you think the Founding Fathers wanted the government to have?
- What influence does the Constitution have on the world?
- Which historical figure do you personally connect with?
- What is the most important event in the news?
- What is racial diversity in America?
- Name five ways to fight hate.
- What led you to be interested in the Sterling Scholar Program?
- What made you choose this category over another?

- What role do you think the government should play based on the founding fathers' thoughts?
- Is there something you'd like us to know about you that is NOT in your portfolio?
- What's one thing in your portfolio that truly describes you?
- Give us 2 weaknesses and 2 strengths of your past leadership.

***SPEECH & DRAMA:**

- What is the most difficult character for you to play?
- What is your acting method?
- How do you get into character?
- How will your leadership in speech and drama impact your future?
- If you were the size of a pencil and you were trapped in a blender, how would you get out?
- Tell me about ASL and how it relates to theatre.
- What is your dream role?
- What do you think about the inclusion of AI in the world of performance arts?
- How will you use the speech and drama skills you've developed now and in the future?
- What part of the Speech & Drama Framework are you most proud of?
- What was your goal as Student Body President this year?
- What did you do to help others in the Spotlight?
- How do you manage your time?
- Is there anything on/off your portfolio that you'd like to tell us more about?

***TRADE & TECH:**

- What has been your most challenging project?
- Which trade and tech courses have you most enjoyed in high school?
- How have you used skills gained during trade and tech projects in school and society?
- What role should trade and technical programs play in high school?
- Why do you think you are a good candidate for trade and tech?
- What is the greatest project you have completed?
- What are your technical skills?
- What would you do with \$100 million dollars?
- Which of your projects has helped the most people?
- Have you taken any auto courses in high school?
- What is the most challenging project you have accomplished? Explain.
- How have you used skills gained during trade and tech projects in school and society?
- How will your skill set help you develop in the future?
- What innovations do you see coming from your preferred field?
- What was your hardest project?
- Tell me something about yourself you want us to know.
- What keeps you going at work?
- Why did you choose Trade & Tech as your category?

***VISUAL ARTS:**

- After placing all art pieces on the table, the judges asked: Tell us about your pieces.
- Tell us what art is.
- Tell us what this scholarship would mean to you and your art career.
- What artist most influences you?
- What experiences helped you develop your talent?

- Which artist's work do you find most inspirational and why?
- What would you consider is your greatest contribution to your school?
- What defines a successful artist?
- What has been your impact on the community through art?
- What do you think is your strongest piece?
- How can art be integrated to improve everyday life?
- What artist is your work similar to?
- What do these/your pieces mean to you?
- How is art being integrated into your life?
- What is one thing you want us to know before you leave?

***WORLD LANGUAGE:**

- How are you going to use _____(language) in the future?
- Tell the Heidi story in _____(language).
- Answer questions in _____(language).
- Tell us about culture in a foreign language.
- What is your favorite language?
- ¿Dónde está el hospital?
- What has been your most important language-learning experience?
- What would you add to the foreign Language department at your school?
- How has learning a foreign language helped you?
- Explain in Spanish how you became interested in the category and other interests.
- What languages do you know and how has learning them affected you?
- What challenges have you had learning languages?
- What is your experience learning languages?
- What inspired you to learn another language?
- Say something in another language.
- How have you applied your knowledge of your language?
- Which project are you most proud of?
- Describe your best leadership quality
- How long have you studied the language?
- In your language, describe some service you have done.
- How has your language benefitted you?

Critical Thinking / Scenario Questions

- What would you do if you were part of a group project and one team member wasn't contributing?
- How do you handle failure? Give a specific example.
- If you had unlimited resources, what project would you pursue in your category?

Tips for the Interview

- Dress professionally.
- Practice clear and confident speaking.
- Know your portfolio inside and out. Be ready to explain what sets you apart from others.
- Express gratitude and humility.