



# Scholarship Essay Tips

## 1. Stick to the prompt and tell the truth

- Understand the prompt: Read it several times until you're sure what it's asking.
- Choose wisely: If you have options, choose the prompt you're passionate about—not the one you think sounds impressive.
- Be honest: Avoid exaggeration or fabrication. Your authenticity is your strongest asset.
- Reframe the prompt: Turn statements into questions to guide your writing (e.g., “Reflect on how you protect the planet” → “How do I protect the planet?”).
- Stay focused: Answer exactly what’s being asked—no tangents.

## 2. Do your research on the scholarship provider

- Visit the organization’s website and explore their mission, values, and goals.
- Check out past recipients, if available, to get a sense of what qualities are valued.
- Highlight any shared values between you and the scholarship provider in your essay.





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## 3. Brainstorm before you write

- Make a bullet list, mind map, or outline before drafting.
- Jot down your key ideas, experiences, values, or goals that relate to the prompt.
- Organizing first helps your essay stay on track and be easier to write.

## 4. Use a tried-and-true writing format

- Intro – Body – Conclusion: Classic, clear, and effective.
- Use new paragraphs for new ideas. Shorter paragraphs = easier to read.
- Conclusion matters: Leave the reader with a lasting impression. Avoid ending abruptly or writing “The End.”

## 5. Be specific, detailed, and concise

- Use real examples, names, places, and dates.
- Avoid vague statements like “I love helping people.” Instead, describe a time when you helped someone and how it impacted you.
- Aim for clarity, not complexity. Use simple, straightforward sentences.





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## 6. Follow the word/character limits

- If it says 500 words, don't go over. But get as close to the limit as possible.
- Use your writing software's word count tool and double-check before submitting.
- Going over the limit can disqualify your application.

## 7. Give yourself enough time to write and proofread

- Start at least two weeks before the deadline.
- After drafting, step away for a day, then come back with fresh eyes.
- Ask a teacher, counselor, or trusted friend to review your essay and give feedback.

## 8. Write a short thank you

- If you have space, end your essay with a brief thank you.
  - Example: "Thank you for considering my application and for supporting students like me."
- If you can't fit it in the essay, send a separate thank-you note if you win the scholarship.







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## 9. Scholarship Essay Do's and Don'ts

### ✓ DO:

- Do answer the prompt clearly and completely.
- Do show who you are—let your personality and values come through.
- Do share specific stories and examples.
- Do revise, proofread, and ask for feedback.
- Do follow formatting guidelines (font size, margins, etc.).

### ✗ DON'T:

- Don't copy and paste without editing for each scholarship.
- Don't start the night before it's due.
- Don't use overly complex language to try to sound “smart.”
- Don't rely on clichés (e.g. “I want to make the world a better place.”).
- Don't submit without proofreading for grammar and spelling mistakes.

## 10. Reuse your scholarship essays (smartly)

- Many prompts are similar. Reusing essays is okay—just tailor them for each scholarship.
- Double-check names, organizations, and word limits before submitting.
- Keep a personal library of your essays so you can repurpose them efficiently.

