

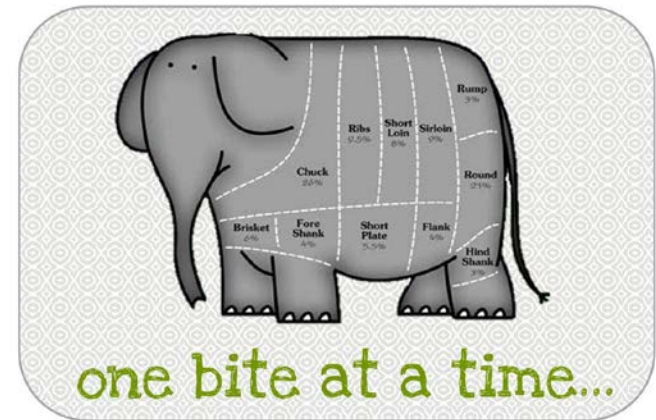


GETTING SOME GREEN!

How to write a winning
scholarship application

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
 - tax info (prior prior year) for FAFSA
- **Read through apps and FAQs first!**



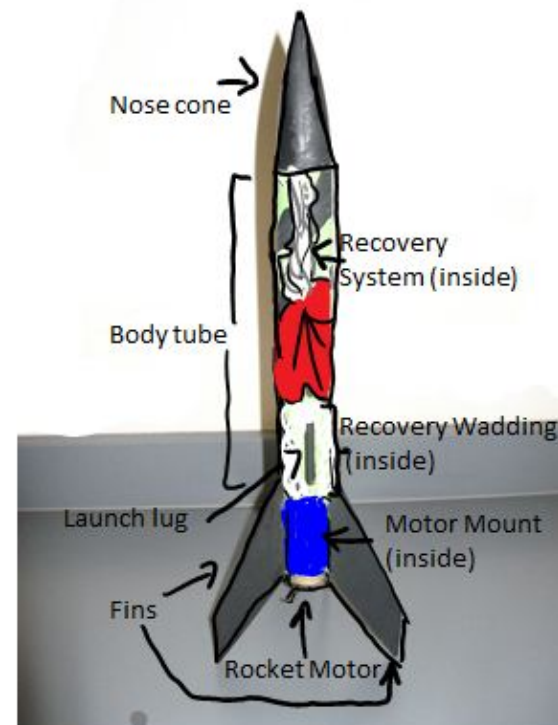
Approach it like a job

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



≠ 8 basic parts of scholarship applications:

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



SCC Foundation application

- 1 application
- Covers all 150+ scholarships

1. 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



2. Yes/No Questions

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



3. If/Then Questions



- Some scholarships will ask questions like:
 - *Do you have relatives who work at XXX company?*
 - *If Yes, continue* with the next question.
 - *If No, skip* to question #4.
 - *These are specific qualifying questions.*
 - *Answer honestly – donors check*

4. THE ESSAY – breaking it down

1. Fit the donor's theme
2. Answer the underlying question
3. Tell your story – share a slice of life
4. Show some passion
5. Be specific
6. Have a clear point
7. Avoid the sob story, but don't avoid facts
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!

4.1 – Essay Fits the Donor's Theme

- Theme = **DONOR INTENT**
- Avoid writing a conflicting message, to avoid being eliminated.
- *Example: The donor awards \$ based on **community service**, so don't write only about your retail job.*



4.2 – Essay answers **underlying** question

- *Example:*

- *Essay Q: Why do you want to study business?*
- **REAL Q:** *Tell us **how you will be the BEST** future business person and why we should help YOU with our hard-earned money.*
- You are competing! **Set yourself apart!**





4.3 – Essay shares a slice of life

- **Just ONE aspect of your life that relates**
- *Example: If writing about your community service involvement, write succinctly about one related experience*
- Attach or insert a list, too



4.4 – Essay shows your **passion**

- **Choose a topic** for which you are **genuinely enthusiastic & knowledgeable**
- It's hard to fake interest
- Start with "one true sentence" (Ernest Hemingway)
- The rest of the sentences will flow
- Convey your excitement or passion!
- **Provide examples:**

4.5 – Essay is specific

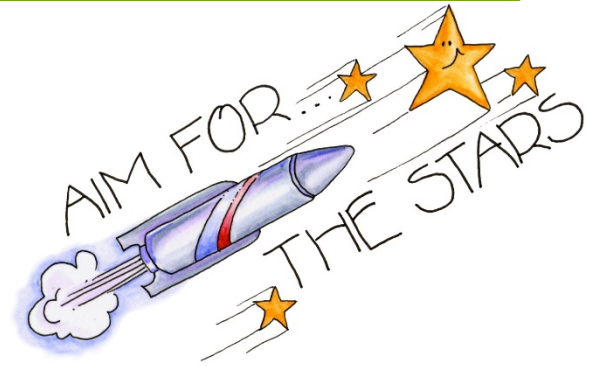


- Avoid using *general* statements
- *Example:*
 - Don't write *"Education is the key to success."*
 - Write INSTEAD about **how education has impacted YOUR life.**
 - *Example: "I've always wanted to be a forensic scientist ever since I saw one on TV. Since then, I read or watch everything I can on the subject. My coursework at SCC should help me achieve that first step...."* (You get the idea)

4.6 – 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 countryside 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.”*
 - **Essay on “Making the world a better place”** =

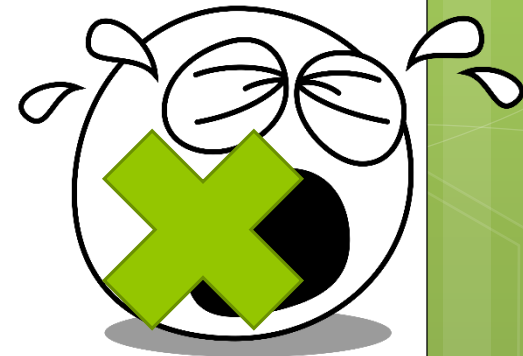
4.7 – Essay builds on accomplishments



- Impress the “judges” – you’re the BEST choice!
- The essay supplements the list’s **highlights**
- Don’t just “parrot” back the application
- Focus on a **specific accomplishment(s)**
- *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.***

4.8 – Essay avoids a sob story

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





4.9 – Essay has positive energy!

- “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.” Don’t belittle others to look good.
- 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.

4.10 – Essay is reviewed

- “Behind every good writer is an even better editor.”
- You don’t need a professional, just someone who can proof read your work and provide useful and constructive feedback (on how to fix it)
- 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. You might get bounced out!**
 - **Better yet, DO THEM ALL!**
- 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!!

5. Reference Letters

- Differentiate you from other applicants
- The SCC Foundation application requires you to **request reference letters online**
 - **Have the email addresses of reference writers with when you apply**
 - Check back on your account to see if they have been sent
 - Send reminders to your reference writers
 - **One letter is REQUIRED**
 - Two or more letters would be BETTER



6. Acceptance of Award(s)

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



7. Thank You Notes & Reception!

- BOTH ARE REQUIRED!
- **Submit online Thank You: We load your award**
- IN-PERSON TY is Best!
- Attend the **required Donor/Recipient Reception, TWO SUNDAYS BEFORE THANKSGIVING**, 2-4 PM in SCC Loren Walker Arena/Gym.



8. Celebrate!



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/costaid/scholar/index.aspx>
 - www.fastweb.com
 - <http://www.scciowa.edu/foundation/supportsc/c/scholarsgrants/index.aspx>
 - <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
- FAFSA – <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> **(NEVER PAY TO APPLY FOR FAFSA!!)**

SCC Foundation Scholarship Application – see sample

For Full Year Awards:

- Apply by March 1

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

For Spring term awards

- Apply by October 1

Or go to

http://www.sccciowa.edu/foundation/sccf_scholarships.aspx

Transfer Scholarships

- After you graduate from SCC
- If you plan to transfer to continue your education:

<https://www.scciova.edu/scripts/admissions/financialaid/alumscholapp.asp>

Pick 1: Write a 1-paragraph essay (SCCF application Q's):

- **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):

Good luck!! Questions?

Becky Rump

Executive Director, SCC Foundation

Southeastern Community College

Suite AD8/Callison Hall, Office AD7

1500 W. Agency Road

West Burlington, IA 52655

(319) 208-5065

brump@sccciowa.edu or
foundation@sccciowa.edu