

Tips for Writing Scholarship Statements

- Set yourself apart. Be honest and direct.
- Avoid corny or cutesy.
- Begin the writing process by brainstorming and free writing. Then use these notes to create an outline that organizes your thoughts. Write your statement or essay by elaborating on each of the points in your outline.
- Use clear, concise and simple language throughout the essay.
- State your accomplishments without coming across as if you are bragging. Provide supporting detail.
- Discuss extent of experiences, degree of accomplishment, what led you to be involved, what obstacles did you face, how did you overcome them, what did you learn, how did the experience shape you, how much time did you dedicate, what did you gain from an activity, experience or area of service. Be reflective.
- Use spell checker and have someone check your grammar.
- Have at least two people proofread your statement or essay for clarity and thoroughness.

For essays that are scholarship specific:

- Read and re-read the instructions or essay statement you are asked to respond to. Make sure you understand them before you start writing. Identify key themes. If you are unsure of what the focus should be, look at the purpose of the scholarship. What do you know about the donor or organization?
- Think about what you are going to write and organize your thoughts before you start writing. List ways you meet the criteria for the scholarship. Do not use general terms, be very specific.
- Make sure you touch on every aspect required per the instructions.

Always check deadlines! Late applications usually won't be considered, no matter how well-written your essay is.