

Scholarship 101 Workshop



Goals

- Better understanding of the scholarship process
- Know if you're qualified for a scholarship
- How to apply
- How to complete the scholarship essay
- How to secure letters of recommendation





Scholarship Process

- Prepare for the process
- Begin the search
- Find scholarship and evaluate your eligibility
- Complete the application





Prepare for the Process

- Application
 - Online
 - Paper
- Scholarship Essay or Writing Statement
- Letters of Recommendation
- Academic Transcripts
- Create a professional email for scholarships only
- Complete your FASFA
- Keep a scholarship notebook, journal or file





Kinds of Scholarships

- Academic
- Sports
- Activity
- Essay-based
- Religious
- Interest-based
- Major-based
- Skill-based



Begin the Search

- Look for scholarships:
 - High school counselor
 - College scholarship website
 - Newspaper
 - Library
 - Club or Union
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Employers (yours and your parents)
 - Religious organizations
 - Internet





Scholarship Guidelines

- Apply Early and Often
 - Apply **only** if you meet the criteria
 - Complete the application— completely
 - Neatness and spelling count
- Check for:
- GPA requirement
 - Class or credit requirement
 - Campus location requirement
 - Major requirement
 - Required characteristics, skills or experience





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Complete the Application



- Complete the application
- Work on scholarship essay
- Ask faculty/employers for letters of recommendation
- Order official transcripts from all colleges attended
- Prepare “Thank You” cards/emails



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Cost and Benefits

- 10 hours spent finding and applying for scholarships earns you a \$500.00 award, you've just made \$50.00 an hour
- Even if you don't earn the scholarship:
 - You've refined your research and writing skills
 - You're prepped for the next scholarship opportunity
 - You've strengthened your connections with faculty and employers
 - You've develop the ability to craft a scholarship essay





Popular Scholarships

- Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarships
- EMCC/MCCCD Scholarship Database
- Presidents' and Achievement Award Scholarships
- All-USA Scholarship
- Chancellors and Foundation Scholarships

<https://www.estrellamountain.edu/students/scholarships/emcc-maricopa-grant>





The Scholarship Essay

- Various Names
- Requirements and questions/prompts vary
- Opportunities to explain:
 - Personal information
 - Educational goals
 - Professional history
- Scholarship/Admissions committees relay on essays:
 - Provides reasons why **you** should be awarded the scholarship
 - Measures **your ability** to communicate and think clearly and critically
 - Indicates **your** ability to judge



Writing Purpose

- Persuade the committee that you are the best candidate for the scholarship
- Sets you apart from other applicants, test scores, GPAs and volunteer experiences



Audience

- What impression do you want your readers to have of you after reading your essay?
- Conduct an audience inventory
- Adapt your writing to your audience
- Never disrespect, insult or talk down to your audience





Question/Prompt

- Read the application question/prompt
- Re-read the application question/prompt
- Break down the question/prompt

- Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they demonstrate your leadership ability, your contributions to public service, and your long-and-short term goals as well as how your education has contributed to who you are today.





Use Writing Process

- Prewriting—use various prewriting techniques to brainstorm ideas that could fit into your essay
- Drafting—ignoring the scholarship requirements, answer the question/prompt saying everything you can in detail
- Revision—review your draft for consistency in logic and ensuring you answered the question/prompt
- Proofreading—submit your draft to the EMCC Writing Success Center for final review of mechanical errors





Final Writing Check

- Re-read the scholarship question/prompt
- Be sure you're answering the question or addressing the prompt
- Be sure you're being detailed and using specific examples
- Be sure you are meeting the word count/page length requirements
- Save your draft in Rich Text Format (RTF)





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Letters of Recommendation

- Allows the committee to learn more about you/your achievements/goals
- Provides an expanded picture of what you offer
 - Academic leadership
 - Personal character
 - Work ethic
 - Examples of engagement in education, community, family
- Attracts attention to your application



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Who to Ask

- Advisors or counselors
- Leaders of organizations where you've volunteered
- Mentors
- Religious leaders
- Teachers
- School principals and administrators
- Coaches
- Employers

Review scholarship requirements to be sure you ask the right people.

You want someone who:

- Has worked closely with you
- Has known you long enough to write from real knowledge
- Is relevant to the scholarship
- Has a positive opinion of your and your abilities
- Has a writing style that is warm and supportive
- **NOT a family member or friend**



Examples

Letter must be from a current community college faculty member who has had you in class and can speak about your academic and leadership abilities.

Letter must be from a mentor or supervisor who was directly involved in the activity that the applicant writes about in her/his essay.





Prep Your Letter Writers

- Your contact information
- Number of scholarships you applied for
- Deadline for each letter you need
- Specific focus for the letter
 - Course of study
 - Career interests
 - Campus or community activities
 - Honors and awards received
 - Anything you consider relevant to the scholarship
 - When you last studied or worked with them





Letters of Rec Guidelines

- Ask your writers as soon as you know you're going to apply
- Provide writer with information
- Online or paper Letter of recommendation
- Provide any additional materials (special forms or SASE)
- Write a "Thank You" note or email to writers





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