



# **SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP**



# How Will You Pay for College?

- Grants
  - Institutional
  - Other
- Loans
  - Maximum amount per year
- Work-Study
  - On campus employment, limited and capped
- Scholarships
  - Institutional
  - Outside
  - Requirements for renewal



# Types of Scholarships

- Academic/Merit Based
- Church/Religious
- Community Service
- Essays
- Extracurricular Activities
- Goals Based on Education or Career
- Strengths
- University/College



# Components of an Application

- Application
- FAFSA/Student Aid Report
- Transcript
  - Official - takes 4 days, costs \$5
  - Unofficial – instant, costs \$1
- Written Essay
- Biography/Personal Statement
- Letter(s) of Recommendation
- Interview



# Letters of Recommendation

- Look at the requirements of each scholarship to determine who is an appropriate person
- Should know the person beyond the current school year if possible
- May use letters written within last 6-12 months for something else if appropriate
- Give each writer a minimum of 2 weeks
- Request letter be sealed in an envelope to include with your application packet
- Gently remind and follow up with a thank you



# Getting Organized

- Resume/Brag Sheet
  - Create resume using Family Connection if you do not already have one
- Student Profile
  - Download from the document library in Family Connection
- Keep 1-2 unofficial transcripts on hand
- Supplies:
  - Envelopes, Stamps, Decent Paper
- Binder/File for Active Scholarships
- Method to Keep You on Track
  - “My Scholarships” in Family Connection
  - Scholarship Checklist (handout)



## Scholarship Winners

- Follow the rules of the scholarship
- Ability to grab attention of the reader
- Focus is on you, not other people
- Well-rounded
- Provide evidence of your academic ability and potential success in the future
- Good examples and story
- Quality character



# Essay Writing: What Not to Do

## Educationality

That education is my utmost priorative focus is verified in my multitude of academic, extracurricular and intercurricular activities. I insinuate myself in learning and acquiring a plethora of knowledge. I am a person that doesn't approbate no for an answer when it comes to enhancing the prominence of my mind.

This pontifical accolade is an integral part of my scholarization, and without it, my temperament would fall short of instructed. My transcendent achievements speak for themselves and deserve accolades.



# Essay Writing: What Not to Do

## My Name is Brooke

Hello, my name is Brooke. I will be a senior at Central High School in Topeka, Kansas. I was born on October 29. I have interests in writing and mathematics. My schedule junior year was as follows: AP English Language, Honors Physics, AP Calculus AB and AP U.S. History. My extracurricular activities are varsity cheer and Key Club.

Here are my standardized test scores: 2170 SAT, 620 SAT Literature Subject Test, 610 SAT U. S. History Subject Test, 680 SAT Math Level 2 Subject Test, 4 on AP English, 3 on AP U.S. History and 3 on AP Calculus.

I have worked hard throughout my four years in high school to maintain a 3.7 GPA. I plan to graduate with honors next year. From there I will go to college.

I plan to major in either communications or business in college. The reason I will major in either communications or business is because I love to work with people and I am seriously interested in getting into the entertainment industry.

My favorite subjects in school this past year were AP English and AP Calculus. My hobbies include sewing, playing piano, singing and writing short stories. I currently have a job at a local restaurant.



# Essay Writing Tips

- Spend some time brainstorming
- Clearly address the topic
- Should complement application
- Engaging, interesting, truthful, straightforward and to the point
- Time to brag a little, with humility
- Write about your experiences, your aspirations – it's about you, you, you!



# Just Say No to a Thesaurus!

Look at how different a sentence reads:

- I believe that I am the best person for the scholarship.
  - ❖ *I take at one's word that I am the crème de la crème personage for the erudition.*
- Community service is a thing we all should do.
  - ❖ *Fraternity duty is a phenomenon we in toto should prosecute.*
- Education gives me many opportunities to grow.
  - ❖ *Tutelage lavishes me multifarious hopes to germinate.*



# Remember to Ask for Help!

- Ask someone to read over your scholarship/essay
  - Teacher, Counselor, Staff on Campus, Outside Sources (not peers)
- Many people have more experience with this process than you may have at this time
- A different set of eyes helps with objectivity
- Ensure the person you have helping you has the time to do so and will be honest with you



# Essay Writing: Good Example

## Serving & Protecting

One Sunday morning, bright and early, approximately 25 Girl Scouts arrived for a tour of the Los Angeles Police Department Foothill Police Station.

As a Los Angeles Police Department Explorer Scout, it was my task to help these girls. Experiences like this one have shaped and solidified my career goals, in addition to benefitting the children of Los Angeles.

The girls, ranging in ages from 4 to 11, had not only an enjoyable adventure but also learned about important issues such as 911, acting in emergencies and overall safety. I helped the girls try on riot gear, turn on the lights and sirens of police cars and use the police radios. I escorted them through empty jail cells, reminding them of the dangers of the world and teaching them to be safe.

For young girls who are rarely taught self-reliance, this experience taught them how to take care of themselves. I was keeping people safe as well as helping them grow up to be stronger, wiser women. I could see their delight and curiosity at the unfamiliar environment of a police station, and I was happy to demystify law enforcement in such a positive manner.

The gratitude of the little girls showed me the simple appreciation in a child's smile was a priceless feeling. The Girl Scouts were not the only ones who learned; I realized that the things that make me happiest also make others happy. I have been inspired and challenged to learn and do more, and especially to reach out and share the knowledge I can, changing the lives of others for the better.



# Essay Writing: Good Example

## Inspired to Teach

In the ninth grade, I was introduced to the Environmental Science Club and Mr. Quezada, my science teacher and advisor. Outside of the classroom and through the club, I saw an entirely different side to education. The science club took me to far and exotic destinations, such as the islands of Hawaii, the underwater wonderlands of the Cayman Islands, the temperate climates of the Florida everglades, the deep blue waters of the Mexican Riviera and the High Sierras of Northern California.

We learned that one cannot experience those things in class behind a small cramped desk made for 10-year-olds. I was able to hold, smell and sometimes taste foreign artifacts. I have seen the migration patterns of the Humpback whale, have become a certified scuba diver, learned to surf, rock climb, snowboard and trail the mountains of the world, all while learning about science. Our trips have also given me the life skills of communication, learning to intermingle with people of the world.

It only took a year to see that teaching was my future. Why would someone not want to get paid for helping his or her community, to enlighten the future generation and best of all, do the things that bring joy to one's life all while on the job? I was given experiences I would not have received anywhere else, and I want to do the same for the next generation to come. There is a world that one can hold, smell and sometimes taste. I want to show people that there really is a world out there beyond the pictures in textbooks.

Reprinted from "How to Write a Winning Scholarship Essay" with permission from SuperCollege, [www.supercollege.com](http://www.supercollege.com).



# Locating Scholarships

- Family Connection: colleges tab, scholarship list link
- Websites
  - Fastweb.com
  - Scholarships.com
  - Collegeboard.com
  - Supercollege.com
- Books on Scholarships
  - *How to Write a Winning Scholarship Essay*
- Word of Mouth
- Parents' Employers



# Additional Help

- Receive text messages
  - Notification each time a scholarship is posted or approaching deadline
  - Text **@whs-schol** to **858-215-6489**
- Meet with Miss Bloomfield weekly or bi-weekly to review essays and stay on track