

## WRITING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAYS

### ORGANIZE YOUR THOUGHTS...BY ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Who are you?
2. Why are you who you are?
3. What are you doing?
4. What have you done?
5. Where are you now?
6. Where are you going?
7. How are you going to get there?
8. Why do you need a scholarship?
9. How will it make a difference?

### ESSAY OUTLINE:

1. Introductory sentence  
State your name and the name of the scholarship for which you are applying.
2. Educational Objectives and Career Goals
  - a. Identify your major
  - b. Why did you choose this major?
  - c. What can/will you do with a degree in this field?
  - d. What career path have you chosen?

**Example:** *I have always enjoyed working with computers and I love to write. I'm pursuing a career in technical writing; this will allow me to pursue both interests - focusing on a viable career and doing something that I enjoy.*

3. Brief Background
  - a. Who are you? (not your name) – family, children, siblings, etc.
  - b. How did you get to where you are today?
  - c. What is important to you?
  - Academic Accomplishments: GPA, level of difficulty of courses taken, types of courses taken, etc.
  - Insert extra-curricular interests, volunteer work, hobbies – things that make you stand out or are unusual.

**Examples:** *During my free time, I volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence as a Big Sister.*

*Much of my free time is spent with my children, teaching them by example that education is important.*

*I am currently enrolled in 16 credit hours and I work two part-time jobs.*

4. Need
  - a. Why do you need a scholarship?
  - b. How will it make a difference to you?

**Examples:** *Although I work two part-time jobs, I find it difficult to meet the financial demands of supporting myself and paying for an education. A scholarship will allow me to continue with school in the fall.*

*My parents provide me with room and board, but because I have younger brothers and sisters, they cannot help me with my educational expenses. The money I earn at the car wash part-time is barely enough to cover my books and supplies. A scholarship would help a great deal.*

5. Conclusion  
Wrap it up with a simple sentence or two. You can include how your education to date has made a difference to you. End with a sentence like “thank you for allowing me the opportunity to apply.”

Adapted from

[www.pierce.ctc.edu/financialaid/scholarship/helps/writingessays.doc](http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/financialaid/scholarship/helps/writingessays.doc)