

## PURPOSE

Writing an essay as part of a scholarship application is your chance to demonstrate why you should receive a scholarship over other qualified applicants. Your essay should give readers a sense of you as a person beyond your accomplishments or grades. Always follow instructions exactly in a way that reflects who you are.

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Read and reread the instructions provided for the essay. In your own words, write down what you think those guidelines and/or questions are really asking of you.
- Conduct research on the organization sponsoring the scholarship.

## PREWRITING

Take some time before you start writing to brainstorm valuable information for your essay. Use a prewriting technique such as listing, clustering/mapping, or freewriting to answer questions such as

- What character traits make you unique?
- What experiences have shaped who you are?
- What talents or abilities do you possess that might interest the committee?
- What adjectives would you or others use to describe you?
- How do your future goals relate to the mission of this scholarship or its sponsor?

## WRITING

- Be sure that you answer all questions/follow all guidelines provided by the essay instructions.
- Include specific examples.
- Include information about your strengths.
- Consider focusing your essay on a theme or specific topic.
- Be creative, but make sure your writing is professional.
- Identify related ideas and determine how to organize them in a way that makes sense.

## REVISE

Focus first on global issues in your essay. Make sure your content is persuasive, detailed, and complete.

- Reread the essay guidelines/questions; then read your essay from beginning to end. Does your content fulfill the guidelines and answer all questions?
- Remember that your essay must capture your readers' attention.
- Are your ideas well developed and supported?
- Don't be afraid to change or delete parts of your draft that aren't relevant or don't strengthen your claim that you deserve the scholarship.
- Have you transitioned smoothly from one paragraph to the next?
- Ask people you respect to read your essay and offer feedback. Visit the KSU Writing Center for revision help.

## EDIT

- Review all guidelines provided in the application. Have you met length, presentation, and style requirements?
- Read your essay aloud to check for errors. Remember that spelling/grammar checkers don't catch every error.
- Double-check the submission instructions.