



The PREP Academy

College and University Preparation for African Nova Scotian students

Scholarship Preparation Guide



www.thepreacademy.ca



How to start a scholarship essay

A scholarship essay is your opportunity to give the scholarship selection committee a glimpse into who you are and why they should gift you a scholarship for your education.

Although it can be awkward, now is the time to talk about yourself, brag about yourself, share your goals, your accomplishments, talk about your involvement with school committees, sports, community groups, church and other extra-curricular activities. Make yourself stand out and be yourself!



What do you want to do after high school? Talk about what you want to study and why. If you have a career goal, talk about that and what inspired you to pursue this career.



Did you overcome any challenges in your life? How did you overcome these challenges and what did you learn from them?



What type of impact do you want to make in the world, your community, or for certain people? Talk about how and why you want to give back.



Share your experiences. Talk about community involvement, volunteer experience, employment experience, sports, school committees... things that may be on your resume!



Perhaps you can talk about your personal and life experiences that may have influenced your career path.



What are some examples of some problems you've faced along the way? These could be things you experienced in your community, personal life, work experience, family, etc.



Talk about how this scholarship will help make a positive impact on your future education and/or career goals.



Write a professional essay: start by introducing yourself, be sure to add the date, the company name and check for grammar.



End the scholarship essay with something like: "This scholarship would allow me to complete university and pursue my dreams of advocating for youth mental health. Thank you for your consideration of me for this scholarship."

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are letters written by a professional students know very well and have a connection with, this could be a principal, teachers, guidance counsellor, student support worker, coach, supervisor, volunteer supervisor, community member, church member, etc. The letters should highlight positive qualities, abilities and strengths of a student. It informs a scholarship selection committee about a student's character, commitment, positive influence, accomplishments and ability to succeed. Great reference letters will help a student stand out in their scholarship application.

TIPS!

1

Choose good quality references: Choose a reference that can speak to your strengths and qualities. Avoid asking family members and friends. Ask people you associate with in professional or formal capacity (i.e. teachers, coaches, managers, volunteer supervisors, mentors and advisors).

3

Give as much information as possible about the scholarship. This will ensure that the information about you given in the letter is relevant to the criteria of the scholarship. This will help guide the writer when writing your letter.

2

Ask early Do not wait until the last minute to ask for references. Provide them with a due date when requesting for the letter. Make sure this due date is well before the application deadline. This will ensure that you receive your letter in time.

4

Follow instruction. Each scholarship application may have different instructions and requirements for reference letters. Ensure you relay these instructions to your reference. (ex. teacher references may be required to be on official school letter head).

Use this sample email to request your letter of recommendation:

Dear *[Name of Reference]*,

I am currently in the process of applying for university scholarships for my post secondary education at *[Enter school if known]*. I am currently applying for *[Enter name of scholarship]* and I am requesting that you consider providing me with a letter of recommendation in support of my application *[give details about the scholarship applying for]*.

I am hoping that you can speak to the different aspects of my background, character, academics, and extra-curricular activities to ensure the scholarship committee will get a broad sense of my life, skills and achievements. Please let me know if I can provide you with any further information about my recent activities or this request.

This letter is due on *[enter due date prior to submission due date]*

Thank you,

[Enter your first and last name]



