

APSU Writing Center
Application Essays

Application Essay

Before you write

- **Understand the Prompt**
 - Read through the instructions checking for format, length, and other requirements.
- **Answer Questions**
 - Why are you applying for this? What are the benefits for you or your career growth?
 - Why are you interested in this program? How will it be useful?
 - What makes you different from other applicants? Do you have special leadership skills?
 - What motivates or interests you?

While Writing

- **Start your draft**
 - Brainstorm for 10-15 minutes by writing anything about the topic that comes to mind on paper. After your freewriting, review what you have written to find what stands out. For example: Are you in a leadership position in your student organization? What have you learned/challenges you faced/grown from being a leader?
- **Give Details**
 - Focus on including specific examples while highlighting your strengths. Consider focusing your essay on a theme or specific topic. Be creative, but make sure your writing is professional.
- **Capture the Audience**
 - Remember that your essay must capture your readers' attention. Figure out how to use the essay to add value to your application and write that story. Start your essay with an anecdote, a story set in a specific moment that will serve as an example of something larger than the particulars represented in the story. You want your reader to see your choices motivated by passion and drive.

After Writing

- **Allow for Distance:**
 - Take a break from your writing before proofreading to gain a fresh perspective, making errors and inconsistencies easier to spot upon your return.
- **Proofread and Edit**
 - Read your essay aloud to check for errors. 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.
- **Peer Review**
 - Schedule an appointment with an APSU Writing Center Tutor who can assist you with the application writing process.

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Scholarship Essay Questions

- Below are sample Scholarship Application Essay questions and ideas for answering. Provide specific examples to create a compelling case. Show why you stand out from other applicants.
- **What are your career goals, and how will earning a college degree or certificate from APSU help you achieve those goals?**
 - Answer this question by giving a brief introduction to your career goals. Expand further on your short and long-term career goals. Connect back to APSU by explaining how APSU's programs, resources, and opportunities will help you achieve those goals.
- **What is the most challenging aspect of attending College for you? What have you done to overcome that challenge?**
 - Answer this question by clearly stating the most challenging aspect. Describe how this challenge affects your college experience and then explain the steps you have taken to address and overcome that challenge.
- **Why should you be selected for this scholarship?**
 - Start by mentioning your personal qualities and strengths. Expand upon your academic achievements and accomplishments, and explain how you will contribute to the APSU community.
- **Please describe any academic achievements, community service activities, examples of leadership, or other personal characteristics that make you deserving of this scholarship.**
 - This question asks you to describe your college highlights. List your key academic accomplishments and detail your community involvement. Provide examples of your leadership roles and highlight personal traits that make you stand out.

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References

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