



# Ursinus College

## How to Write an Excellent Scholarship Application Essay

Scholarship selection committees review many applications from qualified applicants. Use the tips below to make your application essays stand out. Take time to [check out these five helpful scholarship tips!](#)<sup>1</sup>

- ***Think about all of your activities and remember that your involvement in your school and community and your employment experiences tell the selection committee a lot about you.***
  - What do you spend your time doing? Are you involved in the arts, athletics, school clubs and organizations, civic groups, work, internships, summer programs, and hobbies? What work experiences do you have?
  - What connections exist between the activities you participate in and your educational and career goals?
  - What is the depth of your participation – what roles and responsibilities do you have (or have you had) and how did you add value to the organization?
  - What is the length of your commitment – was it a one-time event or is it part of your regular schedule? How much time, and how often were you involved?
  - What leadership or initiative did you exhibit – what specific details can you offer?
  
- ***Read over the required essay questions and take time to think about how you will answer each one. A great essay will:***
  - Provide insight into who you are and what you value
  - Be personal and unique in a way that highlights your identity and/or personality
  - Have a certain depth of purpose
  - Engage the reader
  - Leave an impression on the reader
  - Challenge the reader to consider a subject, topic or opinion in a different light
  - Speak to the scholarship's selection criteria
  - Have gone through several edits and revisions
  - Follow instructions and respond to the essay prompt
  - Make the selection committee want to meet you in person
  
- ***Pay attention to these general tips for writing great essays:***
  - LENGTH – your essay should be an appropriate length – not too short and not too long – do not exceed the maximum word length.
  - TOPIC – respond to the prompt in a way that reflects who you are and what you care about.
  - TONE – read your essay aloud to ensure your words communicate your intent.
  - FORMAT – remember that your essay is a conversation with your reader – it should have a beginning, a middle and an end. Use paragraphs to separate ideas. Pay attention to grammar and spelling!
  - ORGANIZATION – demonstrate the critical thought you have given to your application and your ability to articulate your thoughts clearly and effectively.

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<sup>1</sup> We thank the Boettcher Foundation for their permission to provide these resources to students who are considering an application to the Abele Scholar Program at Ursinus College. The Boettcher Foundation provides scholarships to Colorado students.