

## SCHOLARSHIP TESTAMONIALS



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*Perryville High School &  
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My best advice for scholarships is apply, apply, apply!! There are so many opportunities available out there, you don't even know. You would be crazy not to take any and all advantages. You will never know if you don't apply! You might think it's a waste of time or 'Oh I don't feel like doing this!' DO IT! It is less money coming out of your pocket and more money being saved. Long story short, apply for as many scholarships as you can handle! Best of luck!!

With the importance of college degrees in the workforce rising, college is seen less as an optional endeavor and more as a mandatory requirement. Applying for scholarships can help lessen the financial burden that you will be strapped with upon graduation. Start with local scholarships suggested by your school counselors, and then branch out. With a smaller pool of applicants, you are more likely to be granted these local scholarships. Reuse scholarship essays and repurpose what you can. Apply for as many as you can, it can only improve your chances. Scholarships can seem daunting, but are well worth it in the end.



**Reagan Lenz**  
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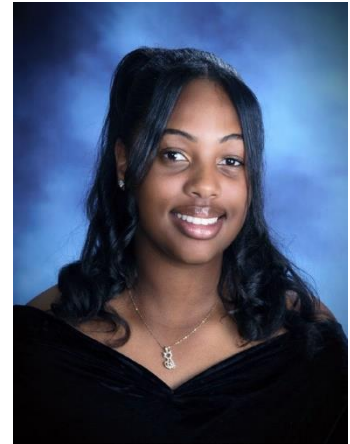
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***Savannah Lacey***  
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Scholarship opportunities for graduating seniors provide so many opportunities for success straight out of high school. The application process provided for many scholarships is accessible and efficient. Scholarships have topics that fit your interest, talk about your high school experience, and address your future plans and further education. I would recommend learning how to properly organize and recognize deadlines. Taking advantage of the early advertisement shows high interest along with saving yourself from end-of-the-year stresses with finals and exams. Once you write one or two scholarship essays, you already have a base to apply for more and more. Editing each essay to fit the subject line makes the application process even more effortless. Graduating seniors have worked hard for twelve years and have extravagant knowledge to apply in the real world. You owe this to your future self, to take off the strain of college debt and boost your interest in continuing your education. Good luck seniors, you will thank yourself later.

There are several steps you can take toward your college future, and I advise being knowledgeable of the school's supports and resources. To help guide me along this journey toward college was my school counselor and the Guide to Financial Aid book- let. IMPORTANT POINT- be on the lookout for scholarship information from the guidance office, whether through emails or postings on the guidance bulletin board. This was how I was able to stay informed, and when I had questions, my school counselor was able to address them or find the answers. In addition, the Guide to Financial Aid booklet provided me with information on different scholarships and their deadline. The booklet also included a timeline for me to use as a guide in the college exploration process. This was invaluable and allowed me to stay organized and focused on what needed to be done monthly as I pursued college. I recommend asking for letters of recommendation early, updating your resume, and finishing the Common App with your essays completed by October. By doing this, you will be able to use that information to apply for scholarships that appear as the year goes on.



***Simone Foye***  
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**Julie Walz**  
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When making decisions on the college or university that would be best for you, the cost of attendance plays an important role for many students. Even with such daunting numbers, your school provides numerous resources to make a higher education more affordable. My advice would be to take advantage of as many scholarships as possible. While the application process may seem intimidating, it gets easier as you go. From my experience, I found that I was able to use the same, or similar, responses for multiple scholarship applications. And, the more you apply for, the more scholarships you have the opportunity to obtain. Throughout your senior year, continuously look for scholarships that you are eligible for and keep track of the due dates! Make sure to stay organized and not procrastinate scholarship completion. Scholarships can be found in your guidance office or simply online. In our county, specifically, there are numerous scholarships available. Beyond just finding and applying for scholarships, do not hesitate to ask teachers or community members to proofread your work or even write a letter of recommendation for you. Best of luck and always remember to believe in your abilities!

Applying for scholarships and trying to pick a college can be really overwhelming, especially if you don't know what path to take in life. But, it's ok! You don't have to know exactly what you want; all you have to do is try. Everyone knows college is expensive. The solution is scholarships. If you are like me, just hearing the word scholarships can make you anxious. But, there's steps you can take to make the process just a little bit easier if you're thinking of applying for any. First, make a list of scholarships you might be eligible for. This way you can go straight down the list and have all your information in one place. Second, be yourself in your essays. Yes, you want to write a good essay that is going to impress the person reading it, but at the end of the day, you are talking about yourself, and if you're not proud of yourself and what you wrote, no one else will be. Third, once you have a few essays written, you can "reuse" them for other scholarships! Different parts of one of your Essays may apply to another scholarship, so it's not only less work you have to do, but it's more efficient and less stressful. Lastly, try to apply for as many scholarships as you can. It can't hurt, and you might surprise yourself that the scholarship you didn't think you'd receive, you earned! Overall, yes, this whole process is overwhelming, but it's possible. I was there; I did it too. Just take things one step at a time and you'll be ok.



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***Marielle Fitzgerald***  
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At the beginning of my senior year, I was a slacker; senioritis had hit me hard, and I had no idea what I was doing for college, or what to write my college essay on. I needed to figure out where to start; with all these application deadlines, beginning to pile up and stressing me out, I avoided them until the last minute. Something clicked, and I asked myself, “What are you doing? You have to pay for college. This is all on you, you have worked for this moment your entire life, and now you’re slacking; get it together!” Afterwards, I went to Mr. Gray and asked him for advice on what scholarship websites were legit and what scholarships applied to me. I took the CCPS Guide to Financial Aid, crossed off every scholarship that had passed and did not apply to me and started there. I made a spreadsheet with each scholarship’s due date and value. I wrote one solid essay and based just about every other essay on that, unless it was a different topic. I checked the scholarship bin at least once a week to grab them before it was too late. My advice to the incoming senior class 2024 is to stop procrastinating and finish strong. There is all of this free money lying around! You only have a chance to earn a scholarship if you apply, so apply! If you ever need help or don’t know where to start, ask your guidance counselor for assistance, and they will be more than happy to guide you in the right direction!

Going through the college process can be an incredibly stressful time for you and everyone around you. You will go on many college visits, all with seemingly excellent things to offer you, and it will seem like making a decision is impossible. My advice is to not forget about scholarships throughout the chaotic process. Scholarships are often overlooked because “someone better will get them” or you “don’t have enough time,” along with many other excuses. There are way more scholarships available than you could ever think of, and if you’re eligible for them apply. It doesn’t matter if the money amount is “small” compared to the massive college debt- it will pay for some textbooks at the very least; every penny counts. Another piece of advice is to start with the scholarships with smaller ranges; check for school and county scholarships- those will be the ones with the least competition. Then, work your way up toward the scholarships with the larger ranges (such as state or regional), depending on the amount of time you have. Throughout the scholarship process, you will learn that many questions will continuously repeat themselves; this repetition will make answering questions a lot easier, as you can reuse parts of your responses from previous questions. Without taking the chance and applying for scholarships, you will miss out on the opportunity for financial help in your college journey.



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*Class of 2023*



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School &  
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Preparing for college can seem daunting, so it's important not to get overwhelmed. Many websites can help you for general scholarships or scholarships for a specific field. Skim through and construct a list of those you are eligible for in order by their deadline. A list will help you track which scholarship applications you have completed and which ones you need to complete. You should add more scholarships to your list as the year progresses and more scholarship applications open. Our high school counselors send out scholarship information throughout the year, so look out for them.

While nationwide and statewide scholarships typically have high award amounts, they are not easy to win due to their large applicant pool. As a result, it's also wise to dedicate some time to applying for local scholarships since most people overlook them. You can ask your school counselor for any local scholarships they may have.

When writing scholarship essays, always remember that it is better to work smarter, not harder. Many scholarships have similar prompts: Why do you think you deserve the scholarship, or how would you use the award money? You should reuse and rewrite previous essays to apply for more scholarships. There is nothing wrong with reusing your writing if you're going to write similar responses.

You might not win every scholarship you apply for, but don't let that demotivate you. The more scholarships you apply to, the more scholarships you'll win. Remember that no time used on applying for scholarships is time wasted.

I hope this helps you with your scholarship applications, and I wish you good luck in your future endeavors!