OSAC - General Tips for Personal Statements and Essays in the Application

- You can either type in the text directly, or cut and paste from a word processing program such as Microsoft Word, Note Pad.
    - **WE RECOMMEND CREATING A GOOGLE DOC AND PASTING THE INFORMATION IN WHEN THE STUDENT IS HAPPY WITH THE PROMPT.**
- Use plain text only (no formatting, such as different size fonts, boldface, italics, or underlining).
- Check the word count. In Microsoft Word, you can check the word and character count by going to Tools on your menu bar and selecting Word Count.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- **Don't repeat information already included in your application, such as that your greatest accomplishment is your GPA.**
- Do not include URLs when citing essay sources, as it may cause an error in the application

Personal Statements

- Let your Personal Statements tell your story. Donors are looking for reasons why they should choose you for their scholarship award. Focus on something unique about yourself!
- **Word Limit: 1900 characters including spaces for each personal statement. Statements exceeding this limit will be truncated.**

Personal Statement Questions

- What are your specific educational plans and career goals and why? What motivates you to achieve them?
- What have you done for your family, school, or community that you care about the most and why?
- Describe a personal accomplishment, impactful change or experience that has occurred in your life. What skills and strengths were needed to respond, and what did you learn about yourself?
- Is there any additional information you would like the selection committee members to know? This could include financial situations not reflected on the FAFSA or ORSAA or other information not covered in the application. This statement is not required and will not have any negative effect on the application if left blank.

Other Essays for Individual Scholarship Programs

- Each scholarship essay has a length requirement that differs from essay to essay. Be sure to comply with this requirement.
- Some scholarships require an extra essay about living or working in diverse environments.