



GREATER SALINA

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Scholarship Bootcamp



Research Scholarship Providers

Provider = An organization that gives scholarships to students

- **Local Scholarship Resources:**
 - **Greater Salina Community Foundation**
 - **Local high school website**
- **Scholarship Search Engines**
 - **www.fastweb.com**
 - **www.collegeboard.com**
 - **www.scholarships.com**



What to look for

01

Criteria

02

Deadlines

03

What items do you need to provide?

- transcript
- resume
- letters of recommendation

04

What will the scholarship cover?

- tuition
- books
- room & board



Eligibility Assessment

Available November 1

1. Go to www.gscf.org
2. Click on Scholarships
3. Click on "Take the Assessment"
4. Follow instructions to set up an account through the scholarship portal.
5. Click on "Start Eligibility Quiz"



Have a Plan of Action

- Use the **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TRACKER** to organize the scholarships you plan to apply to.
- Don't just apply to the big scholarships. The small ones add up, too.
- Start early!
- Use a professional email - not your high school or college email.
- Research the scholarship provider. If it is a memorial scholarship, research the person it was made in memory of.



Tips for Interviewing

- Practice Practice Practice
- Arrive early
- Eye contact
- Firm handshake
- Be confident
- Have questions to ask the judges
- Do your research
- Be yourself
- Write a thank you note for the opportunity



Tips when Applying

What are scholarship providers looking for?

How to write a resume.

How to write an essay or personal statement.



Tips for Writing Your Resume

- **Your resume advertises YOU! Capture your strengths.**
- **Be brief and to the point**
- **One page**
- **Use action words - Organized, Led, Created, Served**
- **PROOFREAD! No grammatical errors or typos. Ask an adult or friend (or two) to proofread your resume.**



Writing a Scholarship Essay



Why You Should Write That Essay

- Some scholarships go unclaimed because of lack of applicants.
- Everyone has a story to tell.
- There are a multitude of resources to aid with the writing process if you are a hesitant writer.
- Scholarship money is worth the effort!



Why do Scholarships Require Essays?

Test scores, FAFSA information, and grades provide hard data for the selection committee, but essays provide the personal story.

Essays are a window to who you are, what you value, how you see the world, what you hope to accomplish, and why you need the scholarship.

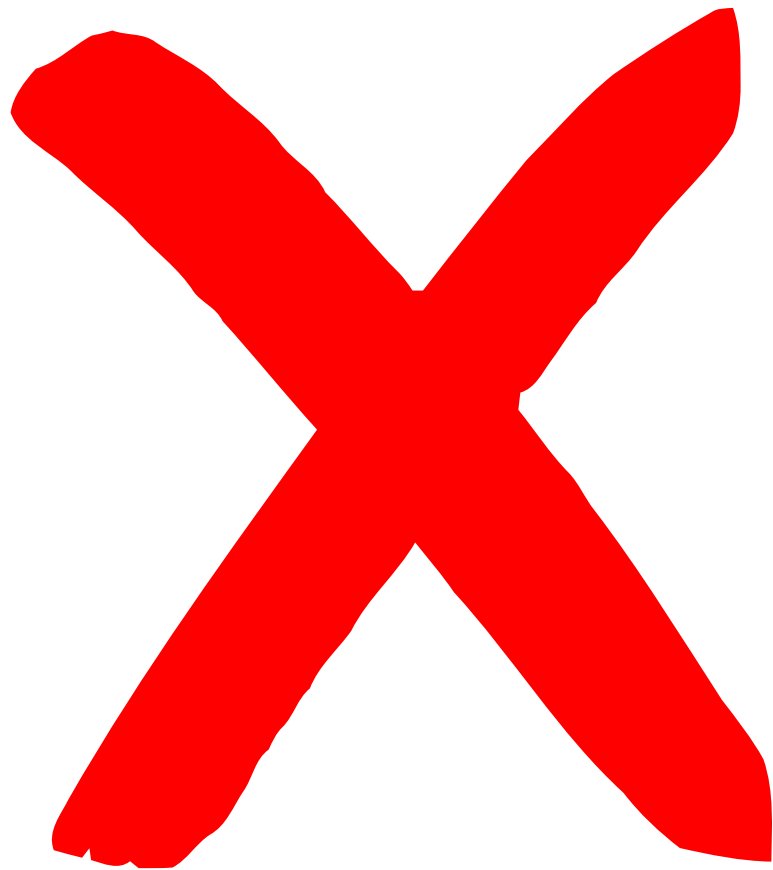


The Writing Process



Show, Don't Tell

"I am a very hard-working individual."



"At my current job, there is a lot of 'down-time'. Instead of just sitting around, I stay busy by dusting, cleaning, taking out the garbage, and doing other chores. I try to look for things that need to be done instead of waiting to be told what to do."

Be Mindful of Tone & Style

While you'll want to avoid swearing, grammatical contractions, and overly informal language, you DO want to be yourself.

So long as you keep it professional, readers want you to sound like **YOU**. You don't have to write a stuffy essay for it to be good! Keep it clean and clear, but also **keep it real!**



Other General Tips

- Adhere to any and all page, length, and font requirements.
- Make sure you edit and proofread carefully.
 - For example, we had two applicants that the selection committee were on the fence between. What ultimately broke the tie was the plethora of grammatical errors in one applicant's essay. It cost them the scholarship.
- Ask someone else to read your essay and give you honest feedback.
- Do not write your essay at the last minute!



Next Steps.....

Approved

.....

- Write a thank you letter
- Complete scholarship acceptance forms
 - Have your college student ID and college address
- Let your college know you are going to receive an outside scholarship
 - Inform them if it is renewable, if it is to be applied to one semester or both semesters

Denied

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- Write a thank you letter



Tips on Surviving your First Year

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◆ Don't be afraid to ask questions.

◆ Don't go home for the first couple of weekends.

◆ Find the location of your classes **BEFORE** the first day.

◆ Figure out your study plan **BEFORE** you have homework.

◆ Get Involved!

◆ Go to class, take notes, and don't procrastinate.

◆ Read the syllabus.



Remember!

- **GSCF applications OPEN November 1 and CLOSE February 15**
- **Apply at www.gscf.org**
- **Questions? Contact Jessica Fuller at jessicafuller@gscf.org**





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Thank you!



Focus on Telling a Unique Story

"I want to attend college because it will give me an education that will help me succeed."

"I'm a leader in my school because I'm captain of the football team."

Share a story that nobody else can.



FAFSA

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Fill out the FAFSA at:
www.studentaid.gov



- Opens October 1
- Use prior prior year taxes
 - Ex: 2023-2024 FAFSA - use your 2021 taxes to compete
- Send the FAFSA to your top schools
 - Will find the school's FAFSA number on their website
- The FAFSA helps the school determine your financial aid package
- A Student Aid Report (SAR) will be emailed to you after you submit FAFSA
 - Will let you know your
 - EFC (Expected Family Contribution)
 - Federal Grants
 - Federal Loans
- Filling out the FAFSA does not mean you are accepting federal loans!
- Parent and student need an FSA ID
 - used as your electronic signature



Tips for Applying for Scholarships

1. Research!

- a. GSCF, local scholarships, Mrs. Wilson counselor page on school website
- b. Use the Scholarship Application Tracker
- c. Use a professional email when applying

2. Resume

- a. Captures your strengths and advertise YOU
- b. Be brief, to the point, and use action words. Ex: Created, led, organized

3. What are Scholarship Providers looking for?

- a. Grit Worksheet
- b. Each one of you have something to bring to that scholarship.

4. Essay

- a. Allows you to show scholarship providers why you should get the scholarship.
- b. Avoid swearing, grammatical contractions, overly informal language
- c. Keep it clean and clear, and make it sound like YOU.



