



NPC FRIENDS & FAMILY

Empowering students and promoting lifelong learning through advocacy, volunteerism, fundraising, and awarding scholarships



THE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Your essay is the key to your scholarship application. It is your chance to show the scholarship review committee that you are worthy of their investment in you, that you are more than your GPA, and that you are a good writer and communicator

- Effective essays do not have to be long.
- An attention-grabbing hook immediately captures the reader's interest.
- Be sure to address all the prompts you are given and stick to the topic.

I. 1st Paragraph

- A. **Start with a story** about what led you to your degree and career path. Make it personal & reveal as much as you can about who you are.
- B. Finish with a statement that leads the reader to the next paragraph: your educational plans.

II. 2nd Paragraph

- A. Now, **talk specifically about your educational plans**. Include details like:
 - Degree plan
 - Classes taken already
 - What you have left to take
 - When you will graduate
 - Additional degrees you'll pursue
 - Career goals
- B. If you're not sure, explain the possible paths you're exploring.

III. 3rd Paragraph

- A. **Tell about the resources you already have—how you are helping yourself—and the needs/challenges you still face (your UNMET need).**
Include details like:
 - Your job—what, where, how many hours
 - Financial aid
 - Savings
 - Family support
 - Other scholarships or tuition waivers
 - Size of your family
 - Parenting or Caregiving
 - Travel/transportation for school
 - Health needs
 - Housing needs
 - Etc.!

IV. 4th Paragraph


- A. **Specifically** explain how you will use the funds, if awarded. Don't overstate. If the scholarship award is \$1,000 per semester, stick to what \$1,000 will provide.
- B. Tie it all up with a strong conclusion reflecting your core values and personal philosophy.
- C. Conclude with a statement of **thanks**. (Thank you for considering me for this opportunity....)

Extra Tips for a Winning Application:

- **Get references early.** Tell them your deadline & send them your essay so they can write strong letters.
- **Show passion!** Make the committee feel your excitement and commitment.
- **Highlight resilience.** Explain how you overcame challenges to show your strength of character.
- **Get feedback.** Ask someone you trust:
 - *What does this essay say about me?*
 - *How can I improve it?*
- **Check for errors.** Don't rely on spell check.
- **Be honest.** No exaggeration, no AI—your story is unique and worth telling.
- **NO AI.** This is a PERSONAL essay. YOU have a great story that no AI app can compete with!

Resources:

- **FAFSA:** studentaid.gov/sa/fafsa – Required by many scholarships. You might also qualify for a Pell Grant—money you don't have to pay back.
- **NPC Friends & Family Scholarships:** www.npc.edu/ffscholarships – View all NPCFF scholarships, watch an application video tutorial, and submit one application for 40+ scholarships.

 **Need help?** Email your essay as a Word document to **NPCFF@npc.edu** well before the deadline for review.

 **Check your email!** NPCFF will notify you of new scholarship opportunities.



www.npc.edu/npcfriendsfamily