



## **Writing Successful Scholarship Essays**

Scholarships provide students with an excellent opportunity to receive funds that can defer the cost of their college education. At Bristol, there are numerous scholarships that our students apply for, including the [Phi Theta Kappa All -](#)

### ***Always do these things:***

Be authentic and tell your story. Write from your heart.  
Write about your future goals, community service, and financial needs if prompted.  
Use concrete personal examples focused on a specific moment in your life.  
Stay positive: focus on personal growth and progress.  
Address info that needs to be explained from your application. If you had a bad academic year, discuss how you have grown since then.  
Create an engaging introduction and establish the correct tone. First impressions matter.  
Incorporate an element of surprise. Show the reader what makes you unique.  
Have a particular point that answers the prompt and stick to it.  
Thank the committee for considering you. Politeness goes a long way.

### ***Avoid doing these things:***

Avoid “My name is...” introductions. They already know your name, so this type of introduction just takes up space.  
Avoid clichés, repetitive wording, and generalizations.  
Avoid oversharing and melodrama. These allow negativity to creep in.  
Avoid repeating everything from your application. The essay should reveal something new.  
Avoid inferences; spell out connections between ideas.  
Avoid simply restating your thesis in your conclusion. Give the reader something to think about instead that emphasizes your candidacy.  
Avoid waiting until the last minute to write the essay.  
Avoid writing the bare minimum and exceeding the maximum. Aim for the middle of a word count spread.

### ***Submission and selection:***

Don't wait until the deadline date to submit. Power outages can put a damper on your plans, and sometimes other things distract you.  
For digital submission, submit as a .pdf file. That will ensure that the essay appears as you want it to do.  
For paper submission, use higher quality paper. A thicker paper makes your essay stand out in the pile on someone's desk.  
If paper submission, submit up to 14 days before deadline. Sometimes the mail gets delayed.  
If selected, send a personal, handwritten thank you note. Again, politeness matters.

Writing a great scholarship essay literally leads to a cash prize for you. Contact the Transfer Services Office to see what scholarships are available for you.