

## **Tips for Writing Your Scholarship Essay**

**Think before you write** – Brainstorm to generate some good ideas and create an outline to help you get going. Make sure to address specific questions clearly.

- Touch on your background – what is your history? Where do you come from? What have you overcome? Etc.
- What are you doing now – what are you studying? What are you involved in?
- Focus on where you want to go – what are your education and career goals (if you have conflicted or diverse interests, be clear and focused in your essay – this might mean picking one education/career goal to write about)? What impact do you want to have on the world?
- Don't be afraid to touch on special circumstances but also don't spend the entire essay talking about them. Have you experienced hardship? Do you have substantial financial need? Include this information, especially if it related to your education/career goals or current circumstances as to why this support would impact your life.

**Be original and be creative in your answers** – Show, don't tell. Use examples to individualize your essay. Demonstrate the point you want to make. Avoid vagueness to make a strong impression.

**Know your audience** – Personal essays are not "one size fits all." Write an essay that fits the requirements of that particular scholarship. Be sure to address all the areas in the essay prompt.

**Proofread** – You do not want to have a typo on your essay. Check spelling and grammar. Get help! Share your essay with a friend, parents or instructors. Another pair of eyes can catch errors you might miss!

**For expert help, visit the SRJC Writing Center** – [www.srjcwritingcenter.com](http://www.srjcwritingcenter.com)

Santa Rosa Campus:

1629 Emeritus, 2nd Floor. (707) 521-7836

Petaluma Campus:

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### **Common Essay Prompts**

SRJC Foundation Scholarship Application Essay Prompt: Provide specific details in your essay, not vague or general information. Explain your educational and career goals. Include your reasons for choosing these goals and what you plan to do in your career. Also explain any special circumstances which support your application.

Maximum 5,000 character limit.

Typical Separate Cycle Application Essay Prompt: Describe your educational and career goals, including any special circumstances that relate to your need for this award.