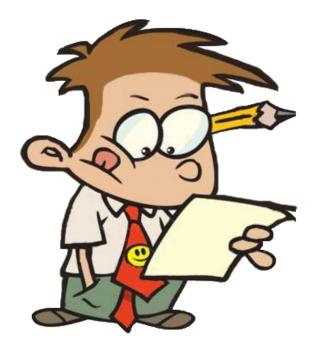
# Writing Scholarship Essays



How to score points, earn money, and change the world . . . in about 500 words.

# Why are writing skills important?



- It is the most common form of communication in the workplace.
- Your overall job performance may be evaluated on your ability to communicate in writing.
- Several studies have concluded that the number one factor in determining whether an individual will be successful in an organization is whether he/she had effective written communication skills.

# "Writing is easy. All you do is sit down and open a vein."

- Red Barber

# The worst college or scholarship essay ever written is still better than the one that never was.

"Whether you think you can or think you can't, you are right." - Henry Ford

"You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them." - Michael Jordan

"One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation." - Arthur Ashe

# The Night's Agenda



- Writing scholarship essays (7 steps)
  - Hints from the GIPS Foundation
- Examples
- Ask us a question (please... don't leave with it)

# Know where you are headed



## **Types of Scholarships:**

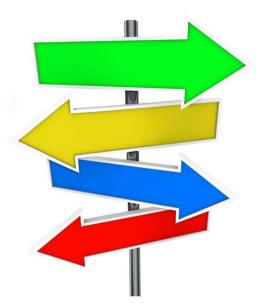
- GIPS Foundation
- Colleges of your choice
- Organizations
- Other scholarships
- I haven't decided yet

# "Begin at the beginning," the King said gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop."

From Alice in Wonderland Lewis Carroll

# Process ....sticking with the game plan

Read the directions carefully (you'll be way ahead of many)



- Background Audience Directions
- Eligibility



**GIPS Foundation Guidelines** 

## Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship

Essay question (Max 500 words):

# Write a personal statement on why you are applying for this scholarship.

# Dream Big, Work Hard, Stay Humble Sam Foltz Memorial Scholarship

Essay question (Max 500 words):

Tell us about your dreams for the next 5 years. What is your plan for accomplishing these dreams. What does "stay humble" mean to you? Essay must show evidence that applicant has done research to become familiar with Sam's character and accomplishments.



Read the prompt carefully, then answer three key questions.

- What are they asking me to do?
- Who will be reading what I write?
- How will they assess my essay?



# Kaufmann-Cummings Trust Scholarship

Essay question (Max 500 words):

## How have your years at Grand Island Senior High shaped your character and prepared you for college?

# "If writing didn't require thinking, then we'd all be doing it."



- Jeremiah Laabs



# Make plans & know your stuff (research)



• Think about the question or prompt. Bounce it.



- Brainstorm and pitch.
- Make an outline, something that works for you.



• Follow the GIPS Foundation writing rubric.





- Slap them upside the head (metaphorically, please.)
- But don't fade at the finish.
- Get there before they leave. (In other words, land it.)
- Every word should have a reason for being there (word limits.)

# "The difference between the almost right word and the right word is... the difference between a lightning bug and lightning."

Mark Twain

# "The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do."

- Thomas Jefferson



1. This, that, these, and those need a partner.

I will take this with me. (this what?)

➡ I will take my lunch with me.

#### 2. Don't be redundantly redundant or wordily wordy.

### She will be home in a period of three months.

### ➡ She will be home in three months.

### 2. Don't be redundantly redundant or wordily wordy.

It has come to my attention that there is a vast proliferation of undesirable vegetation surrounding the periphery of this facility.

# I have noticed many weeds growing around the building.

#### 2. Don't be redundantly redundant or wordily wordy.

She was a woman who knew what she wanted.

### ➡ She knew what she wanted.

#### 2. Don't be redundantly redundant or wordily wordy.

Jose did not arrive on time due to the fact that the road was closed because of the fact that it flooded.

→ Jose was late because a flood had closed the road.

#### 3. Don't use inane phrases and words (pleonasms)

past history, final outcome, plan ahead, revert back, unexpected surprise, same identical, possibly might, 10 a.m in the morning, frozen tundra, false pretense, spell out in detail, free gift

#### 4. Use active voice.

A decision to vote on the issue was made by the committee this week.

This week, the committee decided to vote on the issue.

### 5. Expletive constructions (There are, It is, There is)

### There are four officers who report to the captain. Four officers report to the captain.

It is freezing this morning.

➡ The temperature is 28 degrees.

6. Know the difference between denotation (literal meaning) and connotation (emotional or understood meaning)

She was sneaky when it came to handing out compliments.

(malicious or tricky?)

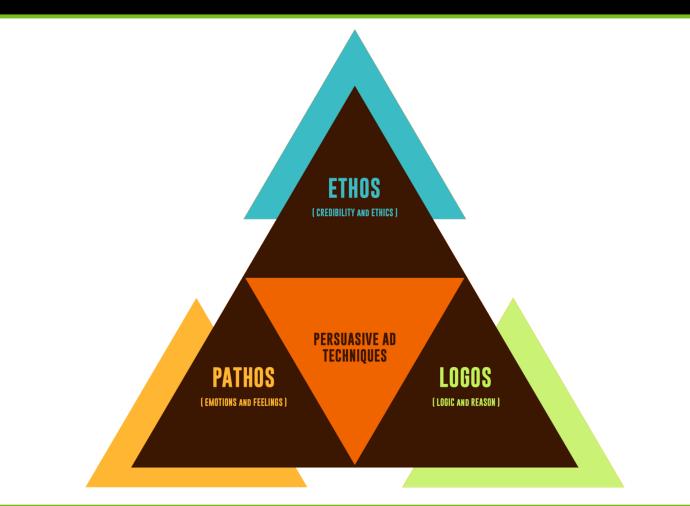


- Make it personal. Passion/emotion are fine (logos, ethos, pathos) within reason.
- **Details and examples** (get real/be specific)
- **Perspective** (don't whine stay positive)

# "Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart."

William Wadsworth





## Sweat the small stuff (details), name names

- Warm paint colors, like red or pink, can have a stimulating effect on a room's inhabitants.
- When going to a formal dinner, it is important to wear your best suit, tie, and shoes. (Rather than: When going to a formal dinner, it is important to wear your best clothing.)
- John threw down a thunderous dunk over Millard West's 6'7" center. (John could jump high.)

## Sweat the small stuff (details), name names

- When you go camping, always make sure to pack first-aid supplies such as bandages, antiseptic cream, and pain medication.
- The students in Mr. Stockhurst's history class build models of Civil War battlegrounds with their own hands, and then reenact the battles in class. By acting out the events of history, they learn to see how those events fit together, and how some caused others. (Learning is aided by hands-on experience.)

## The answers to yes and no questions are... yes and no. Full stop.

- Should I begin with "In this essay..." or "In my opinion ...?" NO
- Should I research the organization sponsoring the scholarship? YES
- Should I trust only spellcheck and grammar check for proofing? NO
- Should my focus be on asking for the money? NO
- Should I use words from a thesaurus that are completely new to me? NO
- Should I open with a quote? NO (with exceptions)



#### • Give it (and you) a rest every once and awhile.





## ... Edit in beast mode

- Be a ruthless editor. One error can taint an entire essay. It's as easy as ABC.
- **A. Insist on the essay being yours.** No one else is better qualified. If your essay doesn't sound like you, it isn't you. Check the rhythm, the language (word choices), and most of all the story.



## ... Edit in beast mode

- Be a ruthless editor. One error can taint an entire essay. It's as easy as ABC.
- B. Proofread. Edit. Have three others edit.Rewrite. Rinse. Repeat.(Until it shines and hits all the right notes.)



## ... Edit in beast mode

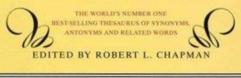
- Be a ruthless editor. One error can taint an entire essay. It's as easy as ABC.
- C. Give yourself the time to be good.

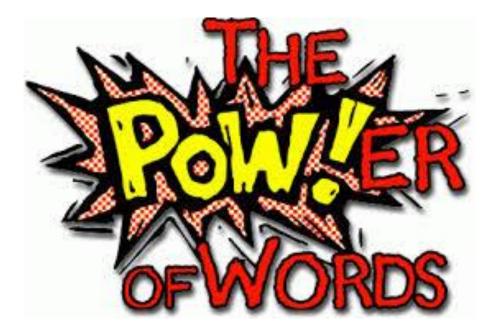
# Stay in your verbal lane

#### THE ORIGINAL ROGET'S ROGET'S INTERNATIONAL THESAURUS

FIFTH EDITION Now Completely Revised and Updated

MOST ENTRIES: more than 325,000 words and phrases EXPANDED: 1073 categories, 31 completely new DEFINITIVE: based on how words are actually used CONTEMPORARY: includes the expanding vocabulary of today





# Punctuation, etc... Oh, the humanity!

# Let's eat Grandpa. Let's eat, Grandpa.

# **Commas Save Lives**

# Dig you some rhythm

"This sentence has five words. Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. The sounds of it drones. It's like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety.

Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes, when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals – sounds that say listen to this, it is important."

# 7 Don't try to be a hero flying solo

# • Assemble a good flight crew

Parents, siblings, trusted friends, teachers, word nerds

• Soar



## **Read Essay 1A**

www.gips.org/foundation/scholarships/essay-workshop

## Essay 1A

- Personal
- Optimistic
- Connects life experiences well to career choices

## **Read Essay 1B**

www.gips.org/foundation/scholarships/essay-workshop

## Essay 1B

- Pays off the theme (perseverance) quite well
- Connects skills/skill details to theme
- Isn't afraid to be descriptive (shows rather than tells)

## **Read Essay 2A**

www.gips.org/foundation/scholarships/essay-workshop

## Essay 2A

- Structure (says what he's going to tell you then does)
- Clarity and economy
- Word choice (inoculation and chaos swirl)

# **Read Essay 2B**

www.gips.org/foundation/scholarships/essay-workshop

# Essay 2B

- Structure
- Organization
- Enthusiasms

# To Review...

- 1. Process... sticking with the game plan.
- 2. Reading is believing.
- 3. Make plans & know your stuff (research).
- 4. Be clear. Be concise. Be careful.
- 5. Be real and be real honest.
- 6. Slow cook, don't flash fry... and... edit in beast mode.
- 7. Don't try to be a hero flying solo.

# **Tips for GIPS Foundation Scholarships**

- Proofread for errors
- Do not use your name
- Start early
- Stick to the checklist



2020 Senior Checklist (pdf) GIPS Foundation Essay Tips (pdf)

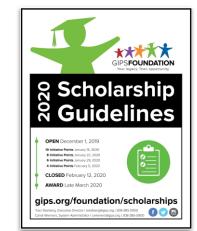
# **GIPS Foundation: Personal Statements**

- **1. Tell us about you.** The best personal statements describe strengths and achievements in an intimate and unique way, capitalizing on life experiences which have molded you into a worthy candidate. Let the selection committee know who you are through your writing. (Max 500 words)
- 1. What are your personal and career goals? (Max 500 words)
- 1. Attending college can be expensive. What is your financial plan for achieving this goal? (Max 500 words)

## The road to perfect is paved with practice.

- Study the rubric
- Study other essays. What worked? What didn't?
- Connect with your scholarships.
- Stick to the checklist

**GIPS Foundation Scholarship Guidelines** 





# Online Scholarship Application

Traci Skalberg, Executive Director Candi Wiemers, Programs & Marketing Coordinator



ର୍ଷ Scholarship ରି Guidelines

gips.org/foundation/scholarships

OPEN December 1, 2019

0 Initiative Points January 15, 2020 8 Initiative Points January 22, 2020 6 Initiative Points January 29, 2020 4 Initiative Points February 5, 2020

CLOSED February 12, 2020 AWARD Late March 2020

The scholarships represented in the **GIPS Foundation** online application are the direct result of individuals, families, businesses, and GIPS teachers and staff, who want to invest in you.



## **One** Application for **160** Scholarships

- \$460,000 scholarship money available
- Scholarships range from \$250 \$220,000
- Scholarships available for ALL degrees and majors
- 61% of 2019 GISH Seniors who completed an application were awarded scholarships



## Web based

- Access anywhere online
- PC or Mac
- Do not recommend handheld devices
- MUST have a valid email address to receive important scholarship process emails



## **Review Process**

- Scholarship Review Committee **DOES NOT** have access to your contact information
- DO NOT use your name when completing essay questions
- How you complete your application is very important
- The Application System will filter student applications into all the Scholarship reviews the student qualifies for based on how the student answers questions



Each scholarship guideline has:

- Scholarship background
- Amount and Terms
- Number of Scholarships
- Eligibility requirements
- Essay question (if applicable)
- Terms of payment

Guidelines are found:

- GIPS Foundation website (printable pdfs available)
- Links embedded in application



#### Emilio DeLeon Memorial Scholarship

The family of Emilto DeLeon has established this scholarship as legacy to his life. Emilto was a 2010 graduate of Grand Island Senich High. He was involved in football, wresting, and ROTC. Emilto was also a positive role model and took many opportunities to mentor those who were younger than himself. During his years in high school, Emilto had to overcome the adversity of a sports injury and subsequent surgeries. This journey helped shape his positive attitude and his subscription to the ideology of "Planted not Bured."

The scholarship is intended for students who work hard and need additional support to pursue their education.

#### Amount and Terms

\$800/varies x 1 year

Number of Scholarships

#### Eligibility

- Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior High
- A high school GPA of 3.0 or better
- Must be involved in athletics

#### Essay Question

 How have you overcome adversity and transformed this experience into a positive growth? (Max 500 words)

#### To Apply

Complete the online application form at www.gips.org/foundation/scholarships

#### Deadline

See scholarship application deadlines at www.gips.org/foundation/scholarships

#### Selection Procedure

Applications will be reviewed by a scholarship selection committee appointed by the Grand Island Public Schools Foundation.

#### Terms of Payment

The scholarship will be padd through the Grand Island Public Schools Foundation to appropriate educational institution per scholarship eligibility delined above. Scholarships larger than \$500 will be split into equal semister payments. The student must provide proof of enrollment (class schedule) and student number to the Grand Island Public Schools Foundation for scholarship distribution. Proof of enrollment is needed for each semester covered by scholarship terms.

Send proof of enrollment to Karl Price via email to <u>kprice@qips.org</u>, in person at GIPS Administration Building (123 South Webb Road) or via mail to PO Box 4904, Grand Island, NE 68802.

Grand Island Public Schools Foundation



## **Application Process**

**Student Creates Application** 

- Answer Application Questions
- Send Reference Requests

**Student Submits Application** 



## **Application Process**

#### **Application Review**

- Applications are reviewed by teams
- Blind Review process



## **Application Process**

#### **Equity Committee Meeting**

- One reviewer from each review group is the Team Leader
- Committee meeting is a "Blind Review" process
- Equity Committee ensures equitable distribution of scholarships



## **Application Process**

#### **Scholarship Offers Sent**

- Students must sign and return offer
- If the student no longer qualifies for the scholarship, the next alternate will be sent a scholarship offer



## How to start?

- www.gips.org/foundation/scholarships/application.html
- Click on application button



Bookmark application webpage



#### **Create an Account**

- Click on To create a new application click here.
- Remember your Username (we recommend using your email)

GIPS FOUNDATION Your legacy. Their opportunity.	1	GIPS	
	Your legacy. <b>Their opportunity.</b>		
		Login	Support Online Help
	Username		
	Username Enter username		
	Enter username		
	Enter username Password		
	Enter username Password Password		

First Name*				
ddle Name/Initial				
Last Name*				
Email Address*				
Confirm Email				
Username				
Password*				
Confirm Password				
User Type*	Selection required!			
Challenge Code	8CnEQ			
Challenge Code				
		Create Account	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	



## **Forgot Password?**

- Click on Forgot your password?
- Must know Email <u>or</u> Username
- DO NOT create duplicate accounts

Username	
Enter username	
Password	
Password	
Login	
	application click her duplicate account
Forgot you	ur password?
	1000
GIPS FOUNDATION Your legacy: Their opportunity.	
	Your legacy. Their opportunity.
Reset Password	
Reset Password	
	and/or
Email Address*	and/or b 2 1 1 k
Email Address* Username*	



## What do the icons mean?

Icons represent the status of each document



## Green check

all required fields complete

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
FORM SECTIONS [?]

Contact Information

Seducation Information

Household Information

College Plans

Work Experience

Extracurricular Activities

Personal Essays

🛕 Scholarship Essays

References and Signature

Academic Reference

General Reference



## What do the icons mean?

Icons represent the status of each document



#### Yellow triangle

all required fields complete optional fields not complete

#### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM SECTIONS [?]

Contact Information

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🛕 Scholarship Essays

References and Signature

S Academic Reference

General Reference



## What do the icons mean?

Icons represent the status of each document



#### **Red exclamation point**

at least one required field must be completed before you can submit

#### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM SECTIONS [?]

Contact Information

Seducation Information

Household Information

College Plans

Work Experience

Extracurricular Activities

Personal Essays

🛕 Scholarship Essays

References and Signature

Academic Reference

Seneral Reference



#### **Two Important Questions**

#### will determine appropriate GISH pages

Contact Information page

Are you graduating from high school in December 2019 or Spring 2020?

O No

Yes

**Education Information page** 

Will you receive your high school diploma from Grand Island Senior High, Ombudsman, or Success Academy?

No

Yes

#### BOTH answers MUST be **Yes** for GISH Senior



turbuctur D	3760	
Application ID	3/06	
Please note: ALL field: If you do not know the informatio		1.000
Fat	her	-
First Name	George	1
Last Name	Hatfield	11.1
Employer (if parent is unemployed, deceased, works at home, or whatever your situation may be, please enter)	unknown	
Job Title	unknown	
Hive with my father		
Home Address	unknown	1357
City/Town	unknown	10.0
State	NE	1.1
ZIP Code	0	100
Graduate of Grand Island Senior High?		1.6
What is the highest level of education your father achieved?	Don't Know	
Mo	ther	10.7
First Name	Laura	19
Last Name	McCoy	
Employer (if parent is unemployed, deceased, works at home, or whatever your situation may be, please enter)	Old West Tours	
Job Title	tour guide	
Hive with my mother		
Graduate of Grand Island Senior High?		
Phone	222-333-4444	
Email	mccoy@oldwesttours.com	
What is the highest level of education your mother achieved?	High School Diploma or Equivalent	100

## **Household Info**

- If you do not know parent information enter unknown
- Or enter whatever your situation may be



## **College Plans**

College preference matters

	College/University					
List all colleges you are considering attending. List colleges according to preference with the first college listed being your first choice. If you plan to attend a college not in the drop down its places choose "Other" and enter the college in the next column.						
School Name	School Name Other Colleges Preference In Nebraska? Application Status					
University of Nebraska - Kearney		1 ~		Accepted ~		
Selection required!		Selecti 🗸		Selection requ ~		
Selection required!		Selecti 🗸		Selection requ ~		

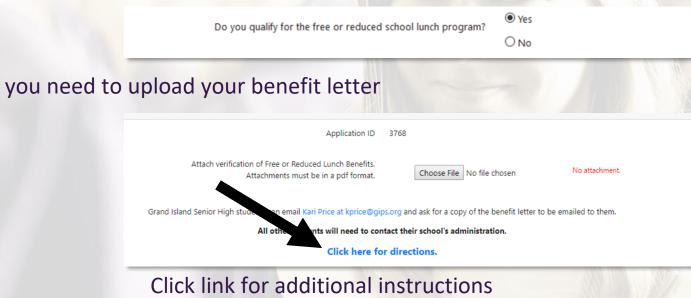
Many scholarships have specific major qualifications

Major/Minor		
What is your anticipated general major?	Business	
In addition to your selection above, please enter your anticipated specific major	Business Administration	
What is your anticipated general minor?	Business	
In addition to your selection above, please enter your anticipated specific minor	Marketing	
What degree or certificate are you working towards?	Bachelors	



## **Free or Reduced Lunch Benefits**

#### If you answer **Yes**





#### **Personal Essay Questions**

#### Personal Narrative

Tell us about you.

The best personal statements describe strengths and achievements in an intimate and unique way, capitalizing on life experiences which have molded you into a worthy candidate. Let the selection committee know who you are through your writing. (Max 500 words)

Goals

What are your personal and career goals? (Max 500 words)

Attending college can be expensive. What is your financial plan for achieving this goal? (Max 500 words)

- Do NOT use your name
- GIPS Foundation Writing Rubric recommended

We suggest you use the GIPS Foundation Writing Rubric to guide your writing.

Click link to view rubric



#### **Scholarship Essay Questions**

#### Grand Island Public Schools Foundation Scholarships

GIPS Foundation Scholarship Guidelines link

Many of our GIPS Foundation Scholarships have additional essays specific to their scholar

IF REQUIRED by a scholarship that you would like to be considered for, please provide the additional essay below.

DO NOT USE YOUR NAME IN THE ESSAYS. If you use your name, the Scholarship Committee reserves the right to disqualify your application.

We suggest you use the GIPS Foundation Writing Rubric to guide your writing

NOTE: Proof your essays before you submit your application. When you paste essays from other sources, some characters may not import correctly.

Bob Hamblet Northwestern University Scholarship

Eligibility:

\* Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior Highand attended Grand Island Senior High for at least two years
\* Well-rounded candidates with demonstrated academic, athletic, performing atta or community senice accomplishments
\* Need to be admitted to Northwestern through the normal admittance procedures
\* Must upload Northwestern financial aid estimate
\* A lideal candidate would be one for whom Northwestity in higher dreams school and financial considerations are a barrier to attendance

#### NOTE: To be considered for this scholarship your application MUST be submitted on or before January 22, 2020

If you are applying for the Bob Hamblet Northwestern University Scholarship, tell us why you want to attend Northwestern University. (Max 500 words)

#### **American Legion Post 53 Scholarship**

Eligibility

\* Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior High, Grand Island Northwest, Grand Island Central Catholic, Heartland Lutheran, or Home schooled in the Grand Island Area

\* This Scholarship is for high school seniors and graduates who are currently in their first or second year of college

\* Must have a minimum 2.5 GPA

\* Must have a connection to a veteran \* Must attend an accredited trade school, university, or college

Must attend an accredited trade school, university, or colle

Submit a short statement explaining your connection to a veteran and how has this connection made a positive impact on you? (Max 500 words)

#### Scholarship

#### Each essay is specific to a scholarship

DO NOT use your name



#### References

- Academic and General Reference are required
- Ask first, then enter information

References				
Every scholarship application must include <b>two references</b> . One reference must be a High School teacher that has taught you personally. The second reference may be a teacher, coach, comunity member, or job supervisor.				
The people submitting references CANNOT	be related to you.			
Consider carefully who you will ask to be a reference and ASK THEM to be a part of the process BEFORE you enter	r their name into the application as they will be notified via email when you save this form.			
Please remember that it is your responsiblity to verify the er	nail addresses of your references.			
Academic Reference				
First Name Last Name	Email Address			
General Reference				
First Name Last Name	Email Address			
Please continue to check the status of	your references.			
You will not be able to submit your application until the references have been completed.				

Reference will receive an email with link



#### References

Your responsibility to monitor reference progress

	Please remember that it is <b>your responsiblity</b> to verify the email addresses of your references.		
	Academic Reference		
First Name	Last Name	Email Address(Notified)(view)	
Traci	Skalberg	tskalberg@gips.org	

(Notified) – Reference has been sent an email link



#### References

Your responsibility to monitor reference progress

	Please remember that it is your responsiblity to verify the	e email addresses of your references.	
	Academic Reference		
First Name	Last Name	Email Address(FAILED)(view)	
Тгасі	Skalberg	tskalberg@whoops.org	

(FAILED) — reference is incorrect and bounced, you must correct the email address



#### References

Your responsibility to monitor reference progress

	Please remember that it is <b>your responsiblity</b> to verify the email addresses of your references.		
	Academic Reference		
First Name	Last Name	Email Address(Completed)(view)	
Traci	Skalberg	tskalberg@gips.org	

(**Completed**) – reference form is complete



## What are Initiative Points?

Bonus points for submitting before deadline

- January 15 = 10 points
- January 22 = 8 points
- January 29 = 6 points
- February 5 = 4 points

February 12 application CLOSED



**Important Application Dates** 

- December 1, 2019 Application open
- February 12, 2020 Application closed
- Late March 2020 Scholarship offer letters mailed SEND OFFER FORM BACK IMMEDIATELY
- Mid April 2020 Second offer letters mailed

# What are your questions?