

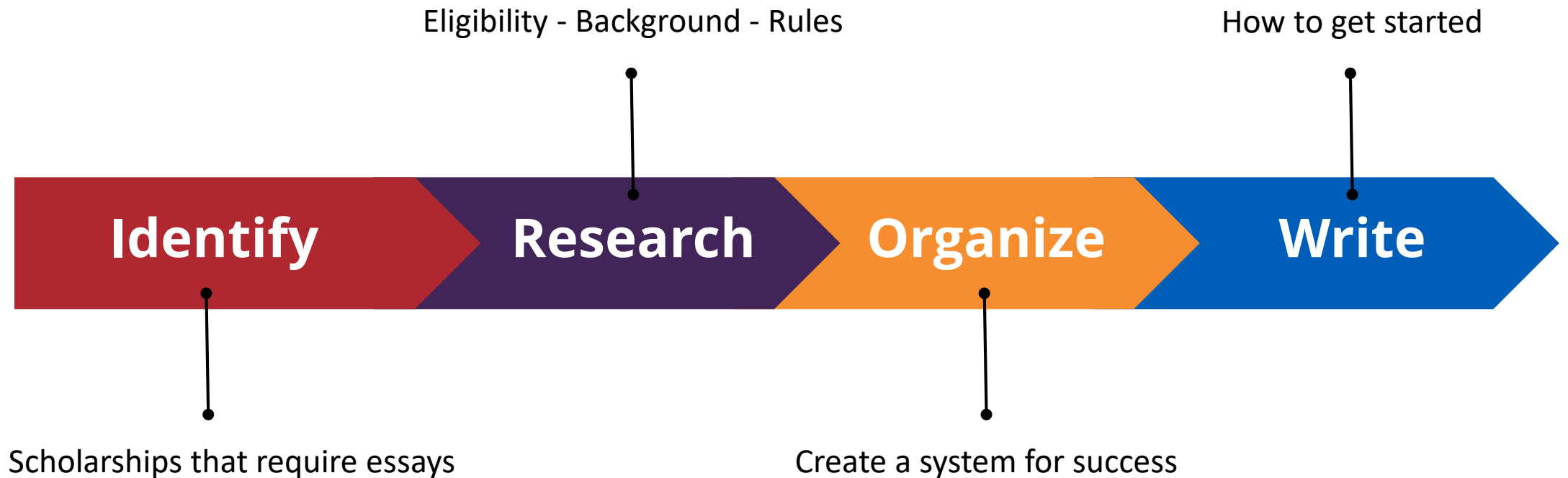
Scholarship Essay Strategies





If a scholarship requires an essay,
it is the **most important**
information for a reviewer.

Strategy Agenda:



Scholarship Essay *Strategies*

Identify

Essays Required for Scholarships

Guidelines are listed online



Scholarship Guidelines

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

The Grand Island Public Schools Foundation is offering over 200 scholarships for the Class of 2025.



Scholarship Guidelines

Click scholarship name to view details

A

- [ABCDD Girls Softball Scholarship \(2\)](#)
- [Academic Aristocrat General Fund \(varies\)](#)
- [Albers Family Scholarship](#)
- [American Legion Post 53 Scholarship](#)
- [Apfel Family Scholarship \(2\)](#)
- [Marilyn Arrants Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Mercedes Augustine Scholarship](#)
- [Gabby Ayala Memorial Scholarship](#)

B

- [Theodora Baumann Scholarship](#)
- [Sylvia Beck Scholarship](#)
- [Doug Beran Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Maxine Bielfeldt Scholarship \(2\)](#)
- [Brostrom Family Scholarship](#)
- [Brosz Family Scholarship](#)
- [Gerald D. Bryant Scholarship](#)
- [Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship](#)

Scholarship Essay Strategies

Identify

Essays Required for Scholarships

Located through out application

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
FORM SECTIONS [?]

- ✓ Contact Information
- ✓ Education Information
- ✓ Household Information
- ✓ College Plans
- ✓ Work Experience
- ⚠ Extracurricular Activities
- ✓ Personal Essays
- ⚠ Scholarship Essays
- ✓ References and Signature

Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship

Eligibility:

- * Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior High
- * Must enroll in a two or four-year college
- * Must have a 2.5 GPA or higher
- * Must have been involved in athletics and/or performing arts

Write a personal statement on why you are applying for this scholarship.
(Max 500 words)

Scholarship Essay *Strategies*



Start early.

Some applications progress page by page. You may not see a required essay until you complete a page or answer a question.

Identify

Essays Required for Scholarships

Essay appears after answering question

Are you considering attending a community college? Yes
 No

Write a short statement about why attending a community college would help accomplish your goals.

Identify

Essays Required for Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
FORM SECTIONS [?]

- ✓ Contact Information
- ✓ Education Information
- ✓ Household Information
- ✓ College Plans
- ✓ Work Experience
- ⚠ Extracurricular Activities
- ! Personal Essays
- ⚠ Scholarship Essays

Personal Narrative

Personal and Career Goals

Financial Plan

Research

Eligibility - Background - Rules

Guideline Example

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



Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Essay Required

In memory of Jeremy J. Buckner, his family offers a scholarship to a well-rounded student involved in athletics and/or performing arts. Jeremy was an outstanding athlete at Grand Island Senior High. He still holds the school and the prior state record in the 300 intermediate hurdles. Jeremy played the violin from grade school through Senior High and was involved in orchestra.

Amount and Terms

- \$1,000 x 1 year

Number of Scholarships

- 1

Eligibility

- Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior High
- Must enroll in a two or four-year college
- Must have a 2.5 GPA or higher
- Must have been involved in athletics and/or performing arts

Essay Question

- Write a personal statement on why you are applying for this scholarship. (Max 500 words)

Scholarship Essay Strategies

Research

Eligibility - Background - Rules

Determine Eligibility

Eligibility

- Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior High
- Must enroll in a two or four-year college
- Must have a 2.5 GPA or higher
- Must have been involved in athletics and/or performing arts

Essay Question

- Write a personal statement on why you are applying for this scholarship. (Max 500 words)

Are you eligible for the scholarship?

What is the background?

Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Essay Required

In memory of Jeremy J. Buckner, his family offers a scholarship to a well-rounded student involved in athletics and/or performing arts. Jeremy was an outstanding athlete at Grand Island Senior High. He still holds the school and the prior state record in the 300 intermediate hurdles. Jeremy played the violin from grade school through Senior High and was involved in orchestra.

Who is giving the scholarship?

What is their why?

Research

Eligibility - Background - Rules

More clues...

Eligibility

- Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior High
- Must enroll in a two or four-year college
- Must have a 2.5 GPA or higher
- Must have been involved in athletics and/or performing arts

Essay Question

- Write a personal statement on why you are applying for this scholarship. (Max 500 words)

GPA

Essay is important

Research

Eligibility - Background - Rules

What are the “rules”?

- Is there a **word limit**?
- Can you use **your name** in the essay?
- Must complete the essay now to move on in the application? Or can you come back to it?

(Max 500 words)

PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR NAME WHEN COMPLETING THESE QUESTIONS.

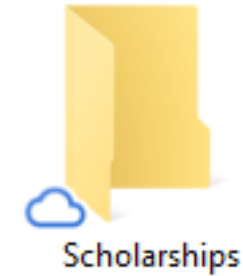
If you use your name, the Scholarship Committee reserves the right to disqualify your application.

Organize

Create a system for success

Get organized

- Create a **Google folder** for scholarship information
- Create or update a **Resume**, save your **ACT Scores** and a **transcript**
- Create a **Scholarship Sheet**



Status	Due	Application/Scholarship	Amount	Short description	Essay?	Reference?	Other info needed
	2-7-24	GIPS Foundation		one application for multiple scholarships	3 required	2 needed	open December 1
started		Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	involved in athletics and/or performing arts	yes		need to research
completed		Kaufmann-Cummings Trust Scholarship	\$4,000	essay about GISH	yes		
		Charles R. and Bessie E. Frith Scholarship	\$40,000	essay about how going to college will help career	yes		

Scholarship Essay Strategies

Organize

Create a system for success

Essay Doc example

Get organized

- Think about who will be your **references** and ask them early
- Save **essays as individual documents**
 - ✓ Include essay prompt and “rules”
 - ✓ Easy to share to get feedback
 - ✓ Can use as a starting point for future essays
- Create **calendar reminders**
- Share with someone who will help keep you on track

Scholarship Essay Strategies

Kaufmann-Cummings Trust Scholarship

Scholarship Essay Required

The Directors of the Kaufmann-Cummings Foundation offer 6 four-year scholarships for \$1,000 per year to Grand Island Senior High students.

Eligibility

- Must be a graduate of Grand Island Senior High
- Must rank in the top ¼ of class
- Must have attended Grand Island Senior High for three years
- Must have demonstrated regular attendance and good conduct

Essay Question

- How have your years at Grand Island Senior High shaped your character and prepared you for college?
- Character
 - Teachers
 - AP English
 - AP Economics
 - Activities
 - Football
 - Speech
 - JROTC
 - Golden Age
 - Same feeling of ‘ownership’
- UNL Biz Academy
 - Prepared me for interview
 - Sure of further successes
 - A step into the wild blue yonder

I owe much of my current outlook and character, and indeed a wealth of knowledge, to my high school here in Grand Island. I am glad to have been here of all places in my more formative years. The High School and my experiences in it have made me ready for my future life in ways I may yet discover.

In large part my plethora of teachers have helped in this process. While others may talk about the diversity of their friends, I have a diversity of teachers. From start to finish they have challenged me and nudged my course little by little. Of particular note though is my AP

Write

How to get started

Read the essay prompt

- Think about the question
- Be aware of your **audience**



Reviewer examples:
donors, board members, educators, community members

Make it unique

- Be personal. Be **YOU**.
- Don't be tempted to use the same essay over, and over, and over...



What you write is **more important** than how you write.

Write

Example

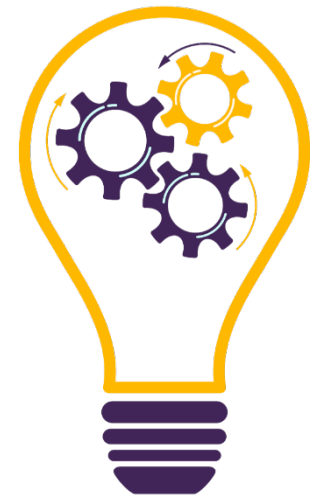
Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship



Write a personal statement on why you are applying for this scholarship. (Max 500 words)

Write

Example



Jeremy J. Buckner Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Essay Required

In memory of Jeremy J. Buckner, his family offers a scholarship to a well-rounded student involved in athletics and/or performing arts. Jeremy was an outstanding athlete at Grand Island Senior High. He still holds the school and the prior state record in the 300 intermediate hurdles. Jeremy played the violin from grade school through Senior High and was involved in orchestra.



Brainstorm:

How can you create a connection to write this essay?

Scholarship Essay *Strategies*



You don't have to personally know someone to draw a comparison.

Write

Example

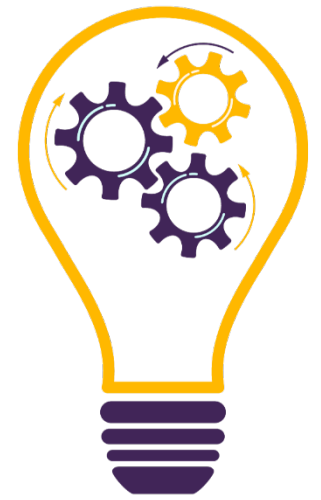
Nicholas Jay Galvan Memorial Scholarship



Nick overcame adversity and through this, learned how to succeed in school, be a great friend, and a compassionate person. What adversity have you had to overcome, and how has it transformed you. (Max 500 words)

Write

Example



Nicholas Jay Galvan Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Essay Required

The family of Nicholas Jay "Nick" Galvan has established this scholarship as legacy to his life. Nick was a member of the Grand Island Senior High Class of 2018. He was involved in football, wrestling, show choir, and his church youth group. Nick had a big smile and was a friend to all. He understood adversity and worked very hard to overcome obstacles that stood in his way. He lived with Tourette's syndrome and this, along with his faith, gave him the tenacity to hang in there when things were tough, and the compassion to understand other's shortcomings. His GISH Football family was important to him. He had longed dreamed of playing football. He wore his number 58 jersey proudly. He was also a talented performer and a member of the GISH Ultimate Image Show Choir.



Brainstorm:

How can you create a connection to write this essay?

Scholarship Essay *Strategies*

Write

How to get started



A good essay answers the question.

A **great essay takes it further.**

- What adversity have you had to overcome? (**past** experience)
- How has it transformed you? (who you are **now**)
- How will you use this experience/transformation to succeed in college and career? (take it **further**)



Think of the **Personal Narrative** as your origin story. Expand on this story in subsequent essays.

Write

Personal Narrative Essay

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)

Personal and Career Goals Essay

Financial Plan Essay

Leadership Essay

Volunteer Essay

Write

How to get started

More essay tips...

- Write your essay in another program
- Ask for feedback
- Check for errors after copy/paste into application



Give yourself **time to complete essays**





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