



Scholarship Award Application Tips For Youths

Dear Applicant,

We are very pleased you are interested in applying for a PbS Scholarship Award. Writing scholarship applications and essays can be intimidating, so we've written this guide below to share some tips and samples of what we are looking for when we score the applications.

Application Packet Tips:

1. PbS Scholarship application form:
 - Make sure your handwriting is legible
 - Don't leave anything blank on the application
2. One-page essay explaining how the scholarship will be used to further your education and how you will "pay it forward:"
 - Make sure to identify your need, state a clear plan and how will you make a difference for future generations
 - Although this is not a writing competition, please try to write in complete sentences
 - Read example essays below
3. Short letter of recommendation:
 - Ask a teacher, facility staff or other adult who knows you and your educational goals to write a short letter that confirms you want to learn more and are committed to continuing your education.
4. Documentation and/or verification of acceptance into educational program:
 - Documentation can include: Acceptance letters, transcript, letter of enrollment, class schedule with your name on it, tuition statement, student ID
 - Remember, if this documentation is not available at the time of applying, you can let us know in your application and send it to us, but no later than May 31, 2020

Example Essays:

Here are two examples to help you get started. The first one is a quick draft that can be helpful to get your thoughts together and think about why this is important to you. We recommend you get a friend or teacher to read your first draft.

The second example is more carefully crafted and responds to the essay questions in detail.



First Draft: This scholarship will help me pay for college. By receiving this scholarship, the cost I would have to pay would be more manageable. I am in a complex situation. Since I am currently incarcerated I do not know too much about college. What I am aware of is the costs, books, room and board, and a lot of other things. Large amounts of money are hard to come by. I have dreams of opening a recording studio. I want to be successful and I know college will help me out with that, that is why I am focused on going. If I'm unable to afford it, though, then how would my dreams come true? Growing up, I was around a lot of people that had bad habits. I became interested in how people work and why they do the things they do. I want to study at a college to learn more about how people work and how I can be successful. I want to pay it forward by creating a service for young people to be treated better in the system.

Final Essay: Earning the PbS Scholarship would help me pay for college tuition at Salem State University. It would also motivate me personally by boosting my confidence. I graduated high school with a diploma I felt I did not earn since most of my high school career was spent incarcerated and in community programs. I didn't feel like I was ready for college and never thought it was an option for me because I knew I wouldn't be able to afford it. After DYS funded a few classes at community college I became confident and believed that I could succeed at the college level if I applied myself and had the funds. I plan to enroll in the 2020 fall semester as a Psychology major. I have always wanted to better understand of how people work with others. Growing up I never understood why some people choose good or bad paths of life. Once I graduate college, I plan to pay it forward by changing the policies and rules that affect programs like the ones I was in that way young people can have a better chance of going to college and choosing better paths of life.

The difference between the first and second application essays is a strong plan. If you are stuck on what to write, first think about:

- *What educational program do you see yourself doing? Why?*
- *Do you know what major or trade you would like?*
- *What barriers have you faced in your education to date?*

We want to hear your story and learn how we can help, so get as specific as you can! If you are chosen as a recipient, we will follow up with you in the future to learn how the award helped you continue your education.

Best of luck!

Jaelyn Cirinna

Jaelyn Cirinna
PbS Youth Coordinator

