

Essay Assignment 2023 - CHOOSE ONE!

Option 1 - Personal Statement (Scholarship)

Write a personal statement (up to 600 words) answering the following prompt:

1. Describe a time you worked hard for something. How did you grow? How will this help you in the future?
2. Why is going to college and/or a trade school important to you? What inspires you?
3. How would receiving this scholarship help you achieve your goals?
4. Describe experiences that influenced why you want to go to college and/or what you want to study.

Tips:

- Avoid using big words only to sound intelligent. Your introduction should sound natural.
- Avoid obvious statements such as "I am interested in this scholarship."
- Avoid introducing yourself, referring to your essay, such as "My name is . . ." and "I will describe . . ."

Here are 10 ideas for an anecdotal intro (Chat GPT):

1. **Defining Moment:** Write about a single moment in your life that influenced your beliefs or outlook.
2. **Unexpected Encounter:** Describe an encounter with a stranger that altered your perspective.
3. **Mistakes and Lessons:** Share a story about a mistake you made and the lesson you learned
4. **Family Traditions:** Reflect on a family tradition that is meaningful and its impact on your life.
5. **First Impressions:** Share your first impressions about a person, place, or situation that changed.
6. **Facing Fear:** Discuss an experience where you faced a fear or overcame a significant challenge.
7. **Unexpected Kindness:** Describe when someone's unexpected kindness profoundly affected you.
8. **Cultural Influence:** Share a story of your cultural background on your life choices or worldview.
9. **Defying Expectations:** Describe when you defied expectations (your own or someone else's).
10. **Humorous Mishap:** Reflect on a humorous or embarrassing incident that taught you something.

10 Ways to Start a College Essay - ChatGPT

1. **Anecdote or Personal Story:** Begin with a personal story that highlights determination or values.
2. **Shocking Statement:** Start with a powerful or relevant statement that sets the tone.
3. **Question or Rhetorical Hook:** Pose a thought-provoking question that engages the reader.
4. **Statistic or Data:** Use striking statistics or data related to a field of interest or the scholarship topic.
5. **Paint a Vivid Picture:** Begin by painting a vivid picture that captures the essence of your aspirations.
6. **Define a Core Value:** Define a core value or principle that is central to your life and ambitions.
7. **Controversial Statement:** Begin with a controversial or thought-provoking statement.
8. **Your Role Model:** Share a quote from someone who has influenced your aspirations or outlook.
9. **Academic Achievement or Milestone:** Highlight an achievement that reflects your dedication.
10. **Express Gratitude:** Thank the scholarship committee for the opportunity that will make a difference.

Option 2 - Personal Statement (cover letter) for a job

Your cover letter should be clearly structured and answer the following questions:

1. Who are you? Introduce yourself. Include your strongest subjects in school or hobbies you
2. Why are you writing? Mention the specific job title.
3. Why are you interested in the position? Relate something about the job to your own interests. Focus on what you can contribute to the company rather than what the company can do for you.
4. How are you qualified? Highlight skills and achievements that demonstrate why you are qualified for the position, using key terms from the description that are relevant to your background.
5. What is your next step? In closing, you should request an interview, with a strong reminder as to why the employer should meet with you. Also, consider adding a statement saying that you will follow up.

Cover Letter Tips:

1. Customize the cover letter for a specific employer and job description. Avoid templates
2. Address the letter to a specific individual. If no name is clear, use "Dear Hiring Manager:"
3. Be brief! An ideal cover letter will be three to four concise paragraphs and only be one page.

Format for a cover letter:

Your name
Your address
Your cell number
Your email address

Date

Employer's Name (This can also be the name of the recruiter or director of the department.)

Title

Organization Name

Street Address

City, State Zip Code

Dear Employer's Name: (It is important to personalize your cover letter by using an actual name.)

(First paragraph) Introduce yourself. Indicate the specific position for which you are applying, and how you heard about the opening. Briefly express why you are interested in the position, or why you are applying to this company in particular or indicate your interest in career opportunities within your desired field.

(Second paragraph) Highlight your education and/or skills. This could mean including information on your major, research projects, relevant coursework, or other experiences. Be sure to connect these highlights to the position you are applying for. Include skills such as communication, writing, critical analysis, quantitative, etc.

(Third paragraph) Highlight your professional accomplishments. This could include paid positions, internships, volunteer work, extracurricular activities, athletics, etc. Look back at the job description for key terms, and think about where you have demonstrated that qualification or skill.

(Fourth paragraph) The closing. Refer the reader to your resume. Request an interview (if appropriate) and give a final reason or summary statement about why the employer should consider you as a candidate. Thank the employer for considering you for the position.

Sincerely,

Your signature (If submitting your cover letter online, you don't need to include a signature)

Your typed name