

Writing Your Scholarship Essay

Things to remember:

- Avoid using second person, “you.” Stick to first-person, using “I” statements.
- Be concise. Scholarship readers read SO MANY essays, so it’s best to cut out the fluff.
 - As long as students are answering the questions, it isn’t always necessary to use all 1500 words.
- Use transitions to make the story flow.
- A stream of consciousness is a great place to start, but a scholarship essay should read like an essay with structure.

CSU Scholarship Application

Goals Statement: *What are your long-term career goals? What motivated you to choose these specific goals? Why is your course of study at Colorado State University the most appropriate to help you achieve your goals? What impact do you hope to have on the world in your career? (Limit response to 1500 words.)*

Introduction:

What do you want to do with your life and what do you want your impact to be on the world and in your career? (AKA, what are your long-term career goals). Tell us who you are and why you’re here, and let the details follow.

Body Paragraph(s) (life experience):

Describe your life experiences that make you - you. Some examples: mental health, physical health, moving a lot, home life, various other transitions, joining the Military, having to work full time to provide for your family, being a parent, deciding to come back to school, changing your major, etc. These can be challenges or obstacles, or the experience you talk about can also be a moment of realization, a paradigm/worldview shift if you will.

- Describe strengths that were developed from these life experience(s).
- What did you learn from these challenges or obstacles?
- What did you take away from these experiences?

Body Paragraph(s) (relate to career/professional life – what motivated you to choose your specific goals):

How have your life experiences influenced the impact you wish to have on the world?

- How do your life experiences (challenges and strengths) relate to what you want to do?
- Did you decide on a major because of these challenges or strengths?
- How will these challenges and strengths help you achieve your goals?

Conclusion:

Restate your career goals, **emphasize why your course of study at CSU is the most appropriate to help you achieve your goals.**

Okay, you have your first draft... Now what?

Read it through once. What are your initial thoughts? Write them down. Then read it through again and ask yourself the following questions:

As you're reading the essay for the second+ time, ask yourself the following questions and then consider the answers: (Also consider doing this with another person!)

1. Do you answer each question in the scholarship prompt?
 - If yes, awesome. Go to the next question.
 - If not, what questions did you miss? How can you answer them?
2. Is your essay clear, concise, and easy to follow – is there structure?
 - If yes, awesome. Go to the next question.
 - If not easy to follow, how can you add structure? What are ways to add transitions to help your writing flow from idea to idea.
 - If not clear, find a common theme that occurs throughout your story and use that to tie your essay together.
 - If not concise, what is most important? – weed out the fluff.
3. Is your essay edited and ready for submission?
 - If yes, sweet! Great job and don't forget to hit the submit button on the CSUSA.
 - If not, consider using [Grammarly](#) or sending your essay to [CSU's Writing Center](#) to have them look over it.

ALVS Peer Advisors have also been trained to support you as you go through your scholarship writing process! Reach out to them if you need a proofreader!

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