

Writing “My Story”

Here is the prompt for the “My Story” Essay:

Write an essay titled "My Story" that tells us about you. Be specific about your academic and career goals, and how you plan to reach those goals. Discuss any obstacles you have overcome and any specific financial needs you have. This is your opportunity to share with us what makes you unique and deserving of a scholarship.

Here is the prompt broken down into its essential components:

(1) Write an essay titled "My Story" that tells us about you. Be specific about your academic and career goals, and how you plan to reach those goals.

TIPS: Mention your major, schools you want to transfer to, or program you are pursuing. Also, if you feel you haven't settled on a direction or major, discuss the options you are considering and what you're doing to settle on an option. The point is to show that you are mature and are thinking of your future. The readers want to award a student who will put the scholarship money to good use.

- I want to be a teacher and work in a school that serves low-income children.
- I want to be an engineer and work for Cisco so that I can create new products that will keep Silicon Valley a strong and competitive location for the tech industry.
- I'm not sure what I want to do, but I am considering becoming a financial analyst. I've talked to some of my friends' parents. I also plan on contacting different colleges about their economics and business programs. Also....

(2) Discuss any obstacles you have overcome and any specific financial needs you have. This is your opportunity to share with us what makes you unique and deserving of a scholarship.

Obstacles can be anything from your financial situation, to being the first in your family to go to college, to not having your own mode of transportation. You just have to show why that obstacle is important and why a scholarship will help you overcome this and other obstacles.

TIPS:

First, describe an obstacle.

1. Not having a car
2. Being a parent and going to school full time
3. Family pressures
4. Financial situation

Second, discuss how you overcame that obstacle.

1. Not having a car: I take the bus to school even though it takes me two hours to get to school every day. I also carpool when I can....
2. Being a parent and going to school full time: I am a single parent with two kids. My family and friends help me with child care so that I can go to school....
3. Family pressures: My parents prefer that I don't go to school and that I work full time to help with the family finances. Because it's important for me to finish school, I work full time and attend night school...
4. Financial situation: Although my parents help me with my college expenses, money is tight since the economy has been down. I currently work part time, but it doesn't pay well enough to help me with all of my expenses....