



## Tips for Writing a Scholarship Personal Statement

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Before you start filling out your scholarship application, you should spend some time thinking about how to write a scholarship personal statement that expresses who you are and why you deserve to receive a scholarship.

Your personal statement should be a minimum of 200 words. To get you started, consider the following:

1. What are your strongest personality traits that make you an ideal candidate for a scholarship?
2. Does any attribute, quality, or skill distinguish you from everyone else?
3. What are your major accomplishments, and why do you consider them accomplishments?
4. What was the most difficult time in your life, and why? How did you overcome it?
5. What have you done outside of the school that demonstrates qualities of an ideal candidate?
6. What are your most important extracurricular or community activities? What made you join these activities?
7. Why did you choose your area of study?
8. What are your career aspirations?
9. What are your dreams of the future?
10. How will the scholarship help you achieve your personal goals?
11. What has compelled you to attend LaGuardia Community College?

### **Personal Statement**

Your personal statement should be well structured and written to make you stand out from the rest of the applicants. The statement should present a picture of you as a person, a student and a potential scholarship recipient. It is an opportunity to share your story.

Here are suggestions for organizing your statement in four simple paragraphs:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### *First Paragraph*

Grab your reader's attention with an eye-catching opening. Share who you are, where you're from, and your family background. State any special personal or family circumstances affecting your need for financial assistance.



## **BODY**

### *Second Paragraph*

Explain why are you the best candidate for the scholarship? What have you done so far? This is where you begin to support your case. Why did you choose to attend LaGuardia? What is your major? How did you choose your major? What are your positive qualities, accomplishments, work experience, internships, volunteer work, leadership experience, extracurricular activities, personal problems you have overcome, etc.?

### *Third Paragraph*

Connect your goals with the opportunities receiving the scholarship will provide. What are your future plans? Be specific about your plans for pursuing your goals. Where do you plan to transfer? What is the highest degree that you plan to achieve? i.e. Associate, Bachelors, Masters, Ph.D. What are your career goals? How do you plan to use your education to achieve your career goals? Explain the importance of your major in today's society.

## **CONCLUSION**

### *Fourth Paragraph*

This is your last chance to impress and persuade the reader. What impact would the scholarship have on your education and your future? Recap why you are a good candidate to receive the scholarship.

### **Writing tips**

1. Think before you write. Brainstorm and generate some good ideas for your personal statement. Create an outline of what you would like your statement to discuss.
2. Read through your statement multiple times, make revisions and edit unnecessary words and irrelevant details.
  - o Avoid empty words and phrases like "really," "basically," "goals," and dreams."
3. Use active verbs, not passive.
  - o My love of math *was fostered* by my third grade teacher. [Passive]
  - o My third grade teacher *fostered* my love of science. [Active]
4. Watch for misspellings, grammatical errors and typos. Pay close attention to sentence structure, punctuation and word choice.
  - o Leave plenty of time to proofread. Put your statement aside for a few days, and then come back and look at it with fresh eyes.
5. Get help. Visit the Writing Center in room B200 for assistance with your personal statement.