



# **FINANCIAL AID OVERVIEW**

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS 101**

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# THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER

Different Types of Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Process

A Look at Cost of Attendance and  
Financial Aid Award

Scholarships 101

Scholarship Application Tips

College Readiness Timeline

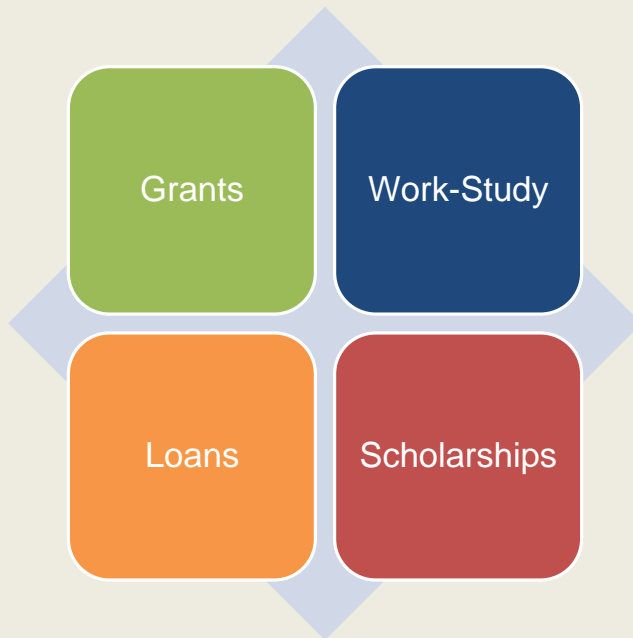


# Different Types of Financial Aid

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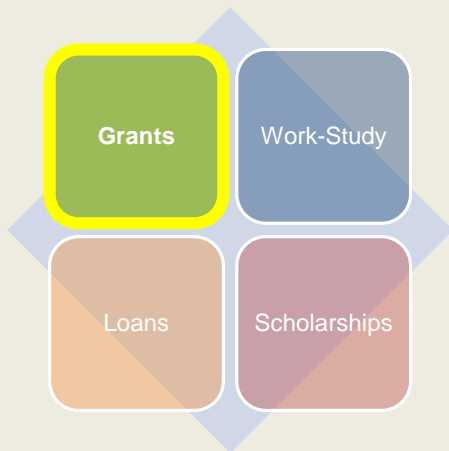
# Types of Financial Aid

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# GRANTS

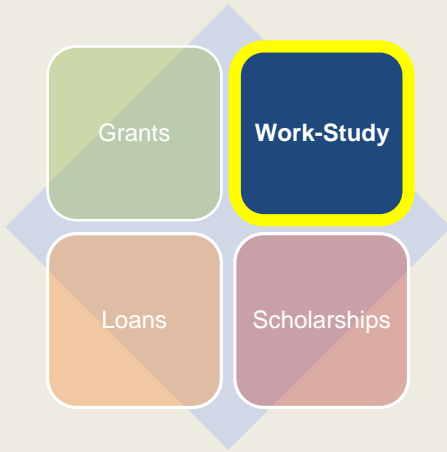
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- Money that **does not** have to be repaid
- Federal Grants: Apply by submitting the FAFSA
  - Federal Pell Grant
  - FSEOG: Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
- State Grants
- Institutional Grants
- Requirements for maintaining grants vary from program to program
- Many grants are need-based. Some are merit-based

# WORK STUDY

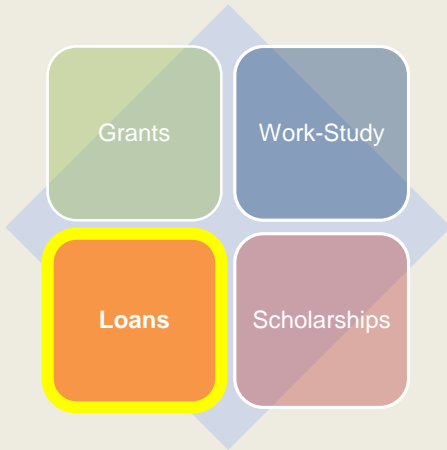
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- Awarded based on financial need
- Students work while enrolled in school and wages are paid directly to the student
- Work study jobs are usually on campus
- Generally above minimum wage
- Administered by schools participating in the Federal Work-Study Program
  - Some schools offer their own institutional work study programs

# LOANS

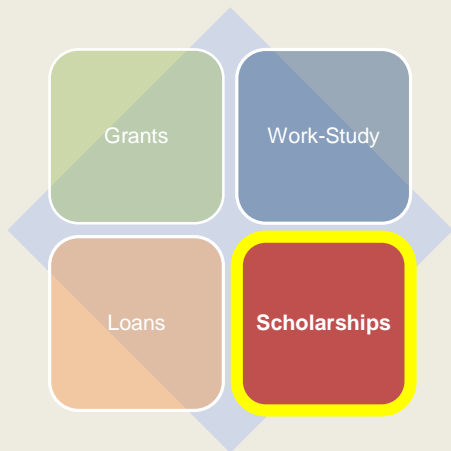
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- Borrowed money that **does** need to be repaid, with interest
- Different types of loans
  - Direct Subsidized Loans
  - Direct Unsubsidized Loans
  - Direct PLUS Loans: Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students
  - Federal Perkins Loans
  - Private Loans

# SCHOLARSHIPS

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- Money that does not have to be repaid
- May have conditions attached
- Different types of scholarships
  - Need based vs. Merit based vs. Combo
  - Renewable vs. Nonrenewable
  - Athletic, Academic, Leadership, Music, etc.
  - National, State, or Local
  - Institutional
- Often competitive
- Deadlines vary



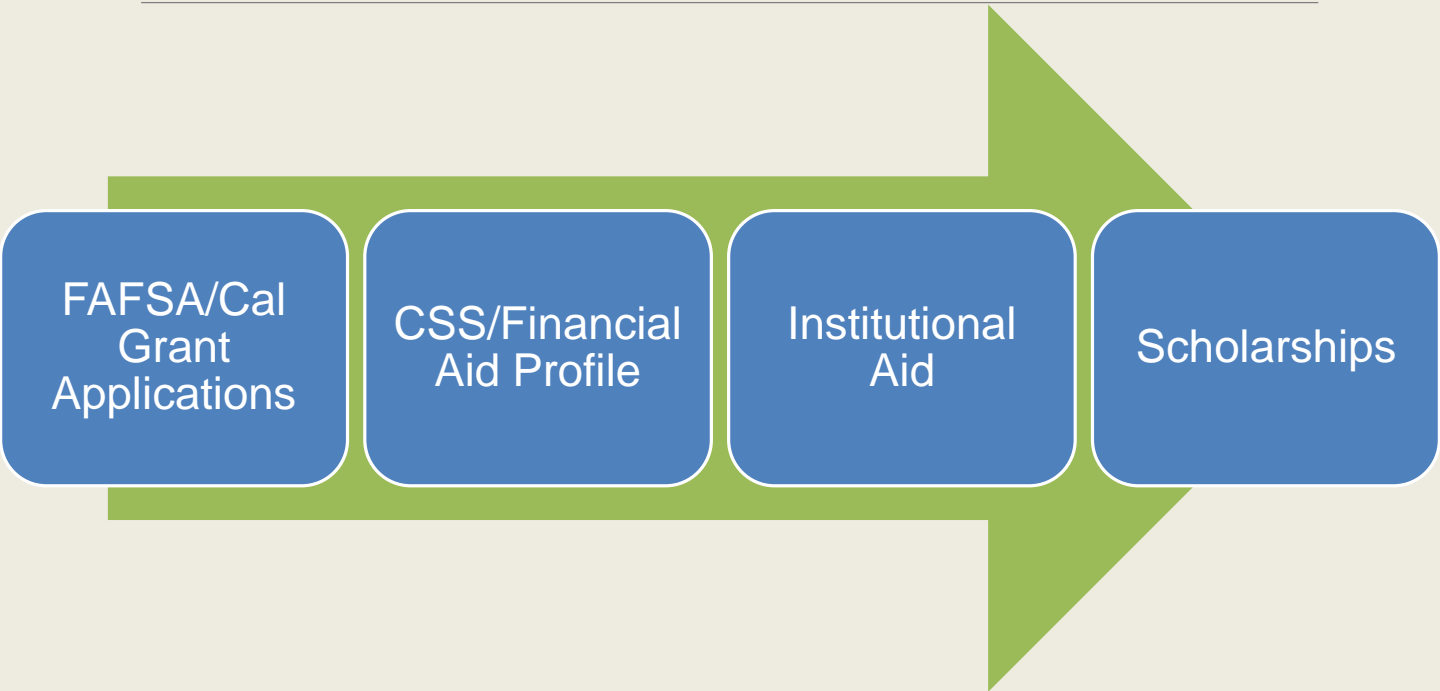


# The Financial Aid Process

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# The Financial Aid Process

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# Submit the FAFSA

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- ☐ Free Application For Student Aid
- ☐ Completing the FAFSA is the **key** to being considered for federal aid and should be completed by **ALL STUDENTS**
- ☐ Some schools use your FAFSA information to determine eligibility for aid offered by the school
- ☐ Available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) starting Oct. 1
- ☐ Types of federal aid available to students include:
  - ☐ **Grants**
  - ☐ **Work Study**
  - ☐ **Loans**

# FAFSA Application Materials

Make sure to have these items on hand when filling out the FAFSA!

- ☐ Social Security number
- ☐ Federal income tax returns, W-2s, other records of money earned
  - ☐ Transfer federal tax return info into your FAFSA using IRS Data Retrieval Tool
- ☐ Bank statements, records of investments
- ☐ Records of untaxed income
- ☐ FSA ID

Note: If you are a dependent student, you will need the above information for your parent(s)

# Apply for California State Grants

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Apply for Cal Grants through two easy steps

1.

Complete the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application

2.

Check with your school/counselor to make sure your high school GPA gets submitted to the California Student Aid Commission by **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

# CSS/Financial Aid Profile

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- ❑ CSS/Financial Aid Profile is an online tool created by College Board where students can apply for **non-federal financial aid** from almost 400 colleges by completing **one form**.
- ❑ It **may or may not be required** from some colleges and universities.
- ❑ CSS/Financial Aid Profile should be filled out **in addition to the FAFSA** if required by your institution.
- ❑ Available online at **[profileonline.collegeboard.com](https://profileonline.collegeboard.com)** starting **Oct. 1**.

# Institutional Aid/Scholarships

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Check your college's website to find out:

- what extra forms may be required and their deadlines
- if your college offers any scholarships you may be eligible for

Search and apply for other scholarships. The sooner the better!



# A Look at Cost of Attendance and Financial Aid Award



## Cost of Attendance:

- an estimate of a student's total expenses and includes items not paid directly to the school.
  - Consists of Direct and Indirect costs
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- **Direct Costs:** Expenses paid directly to the school. These costs **WILL** appear on your college bill and must be paid.
- **Indirect Costs:** These costs are not directly billed to the student and **DO NOT** show up on the college bill.

# Cost of Attendance

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## DIRECT COSTS

- ✓ Tuition and Fees
- ✓ On-Campus Room and Board (if living on campus)

## INDIRECT COSTS

- ✓ Books and Supplies
- ✓ Personal Expenses/Misc
- ✓ Transportation

# A Look at Indirect Costs

- Indirect costs are expenses you pay for but are not included in your college bill.
- The school provides you with an estimate of your indirect costs
- You can reduce your indirect costs

## Health Insurance:

- Check with your college's requirements.
- Possibly use your own insurance

## Books and Supplies:

- Rent books online
- Use pdf versions of textbooks

## Transportation:

- Carpool with friends
- Public transportation
- Consider biking to class

## Personal Expenses/Misc:

- Establish a budget to monitor your spending
- Save money

Direct Costs Charged by UC Berkeley	
Tuition and Fees	\$14,254
Room and Board	\$17,220*
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$31,474</b>
Other Estimated Costs	
Housing and Utilities	
Food	\$1,644
Books and Supplies	\$870
Personal	\$1,876
Transportation	\$400
<b>Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$36,264*</b>

## Example Cost of Attendance

The cost of Attendance will show your **direct** costs as well as estimates of your **indirect** costs

## Financial Aid Award Letter

- A letter from the college that lists all the details of the financial aid package.
- Typically received in early to mid-April

## Financial Aid Award Package

- A collection of all the different types of financial aid from multiple sources that you have received
  - Federal
  - State
  - Institutional
- Aid listed goes towards paying your **DIRECT** costs

# Example Financial Aid Package

Your financial aid will go towards paying your DIRECT costs

<b>Direct Costs:</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$24,631.00</b>
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Tuition & Fees	\$14,403.00
Room & Board	\$10,228.00

<b>Scholarships and Grants:</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$18,504.00</b>
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Pell Grant	\$5,920.00
SEOG Grant	\$2,000.00
Cal Grant A	\$9,084.00
Other Scholarships	\$1,500.00

<b>EXPECTED NET COST:</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$6,127.00</b>
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<b>MEETING THE EXPECTED NET COST:</b>	
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Federal Work Study Eligibility	\$2,000.00
Fed Direct Student Sub Loan	\$1,500.00
Fed Direct Student Unsub Loan	\$1,000.00
Direct PLUS Loan	\$1,000.00
Out of Pocket	\$627.00

# Calculating Expected Net Cost



## Direct Costs:


**TOTAL: \$24,631.00**

Tuition & Fees

\$14,403.00

Room & Board

\$10,228.00



## Scholarships and Grants:

**TOTAL: \$18,504.00**

Pell Grant

\$5,920.00

SEOG Grant

\$2,000.00

Cal Grant A

\$9,084.00

Other Scholarships

\$1,500.00



## EXPECTED NET COST:

**TOTAL: \$6,127.00**

## MEETING THE EXPECTED NET COST:

Federal Work Study Eligibility

\$2,000.00

Fed Direct Student Sub Loan

\$1,500.00

Fed Direct Student Unsub Loan

\$1,000.00

Direct PLUS Loan

\$1,000.00

Out of Pocket

\$627.00

**TOTAL DIRECT COSTS – SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS = EXPECTED NET COST**



# Meeting Your Expected Net Cost

## EXPECTED NET COST:

**TOTAL:\$6,127.00**

## MEETING THE EXPECTED NET COST:

Federal Work Study Eligibility	\$2,000.00
Fed Direct Student Sub Loan	\$1,500.00
Fed Direct Student Unsub Loan	\$1,000.00
Direct PLUS Loan	\$1,000.00
Out of Pocket	\$627.00

- Students can **accept or deny** Work Study Eligibility or Loans offered to them
- Work Study can help pay towards your Expected Net Cost, but students have to work as hourly employees to earn the money
  - Loans can also help pay your Expected Net Cost but remember:

## **LOANS HAVE TO BE PAID BACK**



# Total Cost to the Student

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**EXPECTED NET COST**



**Any Indirect Costs  
(Books, Personal  
Expenses, etc.)**



**Total Out of Pocket  
Cost to the  
Student/How Much  
You and Your  
Family Are  
Responsible For**





# Scholarships 101

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# What is a scholarship?

- Free
- Provided by a private entity, organization, or individual
- Can have different strings attached
- Many different types of scholarships available
- Varying deadlines

## Types of Scholarships

### Merit based or need based

- Merit: based on academic achievement
- Need: based on demonstrated financial need
- Can also be based on a combination of both merit and need

### Can be awarded based on many different factors such as:

- Athletic achievement
- Intended major in college
- Intended career path
- Involvement in the community

### Renewable or nonrenewable

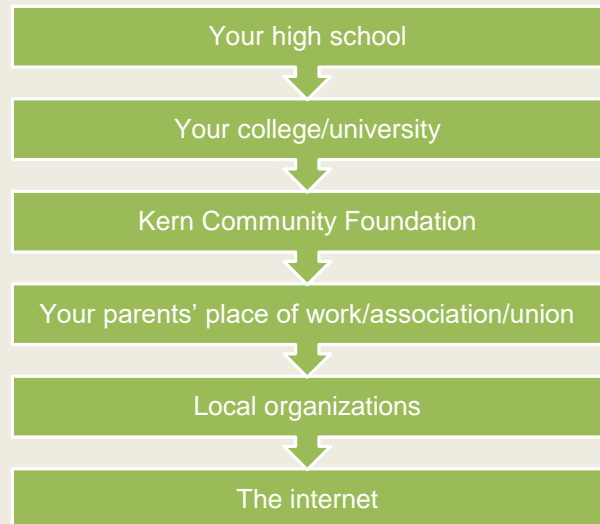
- May need to meet certain criteria (ex. Minimum 3.0 GPA) in order to be eligible for renewal

# How Do You Find Scholarships?

## TIPS

- Start with smaller, local scholarships such as those awarded by your high school. There will be a smaller pool of students competing for these scholarships.
- Start searching as early as possible. Many scholarships have varying deadlines.


## PLACES TO TRY




# WEB RESOURCES


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 [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

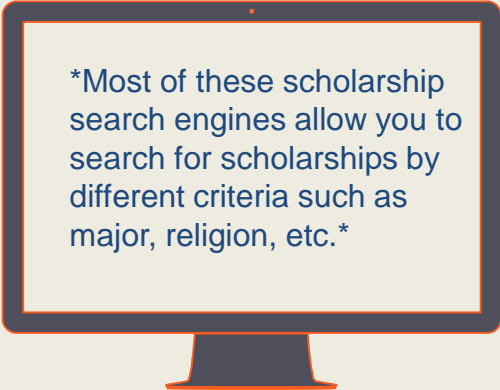
 <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

 <https://www.collegexpress.com/>

 [www.cappex.org](http://www.cappex.org)

 [Scholarships.com](http://Scholarships.com)

 [Scholarshipmonkey.com](http://Scholarshipmonkey.com)



\*Most of these scholarship search engines allow you to search for scholarships by different criteria such as major, religion, etc.\*

# NEVER PAY TO SUBMIT A SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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If you have to pay, it's a scam!

# What Should you Expect on a Scholarship Application?



- Basic personal contact information
- Grade point average
- A list of extracurricular activities with involvements and dates
- 1-3 Letters of Recommendation AND/OR contact information for recommenders
- A **well written** Personal Statement/Essay that discusses your goals for the future and/or responds to a specific prompt provided
- A copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR) or California Aid Report
- Your high school transcript

# Scholarship Timeline

## FALL – RESEARCH

- Use school and web resources to learn what materials you need and when they are due
- Create online accounts needed for applications
- Start searching for scholarships
- Start choosing/asking people to write your letters of recommendation



## WINTER – APPLICATIONS

- Review your applications before submitting them in January and February (some have earlier or later deadlines)
- Have others read over and revise your personal statements/essays



## SPRING – FOLLOW-UP & AWARDS

- Respond to any follow-up requests/submit any additional documents
- Accept awards



# APPLY TO SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH KERN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION!

## High School Seniors!



**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE RANGING  
FROM \$500 TO \$5,000!**

One application, many opportunities!

Apply online *December 1, 2019 - March 1, 2020*

Since 2015, **1,069** awards have been made to  
Kern County students, totaling over **\$2,200,000!**

**VISIT [KERNFOUNDATION.ORG](http://KERNFOUNDATION.ORG)  
TO START YOUR APPLICATION**

Contact Kern Community Foundation for more information at  
661.325.5346 or [info@kernfoundation.org](mailto:info@kernfoundation.org)

**KERN COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION

**Growing community.  
Growing philanthropy.**



# Scholarship Application Tips

# General Tips

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Research	What are the scoring criteria for the scholarship you are applying for? How much is financial need taken into consideration?
Search	Search out scholarships that use Common Applications
Proofread	Make sure to proofread/revise your application before submitting
Complete	Complete any follow up assignments/action items promptly
Apply	Apply for scholarships that fit you

# Personal Statement/Essay

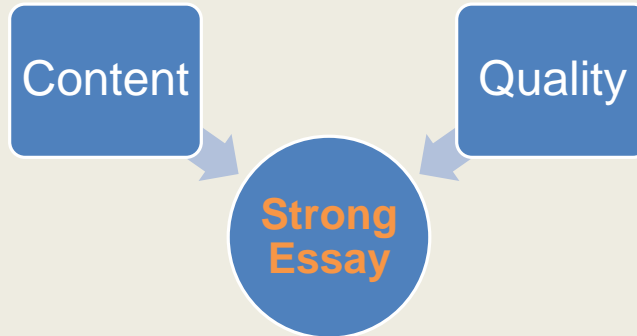
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**Content:** Focus on fully understanding the prompt and crafting a response that addresses all components

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**Quality:** Revise any mistakes in your essay and ensure the best version is submitted

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# Content

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Understand the prompt

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Your “goal for the future” should be meaningful and go beyond *graduating college*

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Avoid simply rewriting the contents of your application in essay form

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Connect your story to your goals

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Be conscious of how you come across in your essay

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Know your audience

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Highlight things about yourself that may especially appeal to their values

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# Quality

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Check grammar, spelling, punctuation

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Follow any format instructions (length, font, size, margins, etc)

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Use common/cliché sayings sparingly

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Complete the essay with time to proof read and give it to someone else to read

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# A Closer Look at Sample Essay Responses

## Sample Prompt:

Write about an accomplishment and/or a disappointment you have experienced. Describe how you were affected. Discuss any challenges and what you learned.

# A Closer Look at Sample Essay Responses

## Sample Prompt:

Write about an accomplishment and/or a disappointment you have experienced. Describe how you were affected. Discuss any challenges and what you learned.

## Brainstorm:

- Content: Accomplishment and/or disappointment
- Impact the experience had on you
- Challenges you encountered
- How you overcame those challenges
- What you learned from it
- How the experience prepares you for the future/how it helped you grow
- How to connect all your ideas



# Sample Essay 1: Introduction Paragraph

## An Example of a Low Scoring Response

Throughout my life I have had a number of different educational encounters that have led me to take an importance in education, from both my personal encounter and from college encounters from family members of mine. Since I have been very young I have been very educationally focused because being from [REDACTED] parents who did not have the opportunity of getting a proper education, my mentality has been driven to succeed so that I can take all the advantages that come from retrieving an education in the U.S., not only to be successful but to take advantage of this education that was given to me by my parents. Another reason that education is important to me is because I have a couple of cousins who have either not gone to college or university or have gone and dropped out, and this has become a norm, however I don't want fall into that group of my cousins who haven't gotten a higher education and have not gone anywhere in their life and end up working somewhere they make minimum wage and don't enjoy. I want to use the opportunity of getting a higher education to get a degree in Finance because it is an area of study that I really enjoy and am passionate about.

# Sample Essay 1: Introduction Paragraph

## An Example of a Low Scoring Response:

### Areas to Improve

Throughout my life I **have had** a number of different educational encounters that **have led me to take an importance in education**, from both my personal encounter and from college encounters from family members of mine. **Since I have been very** young I **have been very** educationally focused **because being from** [redacted] parents who did not have the opportunity of getting a proper education, my **mentality has been** driven to succeed so that I can take all the **advantages** that come from retrieving an education in the U.S., not only to be successful but to take **advantage** of this education that **was given to me** by my parents. **Another** reason that education is important to me is because I have a couple of cousins who **have either not gone** to college or university or **have gone and dropped out**, and this has become a norm, however **I don't want fall** into that group of my cousins who **haven't gotten** a higher education and **have not gone anywhere in their life** and end up **working somewhere** they make minimum wage and don't enjoy. I want to use the opportunity of getting a higher education to get a degree in Finance because it is an area of study that I really enjoy and am passionate about.

### Areas to Improve:

#### ➤ Quality:

- **Grammatical errors**
- **Diction**
- **Sentence structure** (First word of each problematic sentence bolded)
- **Uses passive voice** (Aim for active voice)

#### ➤ Content:

- Provides background information, but lacks focus
- Does not directly address the prompt
- Paragraph could be summarized more concisely to allow room for introducing what specific "accomplishment/disappointment" will be discussed in the essay

# Sample Essay 1: Body Paragraph

## An Example of a Low Scoring Response

One of the biggest challenge that I have had in my life has been moving from a very small rural town to the big city of Bakersfield. I used to live in the rural town of Cuyama Ca., which had a population of around 550 people and with a class of about 15 to 20 students per grade. I had lived here for 12 years and I had grown accustomed to life in the small rural town. However, the older I got the more I started to think about my after high school education and started to see that if I ended up going to high school there I would end up going to either Bakersfield College or Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria Ca., so when I had the opportunity to move to Bakersfield where the educational opportunities are way better and had a bigger chance into getting into a good university after high school. Once I moved to Bakersfield the cultural and educational affected me greatly. When I first started I had problems adapting to the new environment, however once I got my educational priorities straight and remembered that the whole point of me moving was to take advantage of the educational opportunities that I could not take advantage of in my hometown, which made forget about the cultural change and adapted to focus in school and them started to integrate to the new way of life in Bakersfield. Since I've been in Bakersfield I have taken every advanced educational opportunity like A.P. classes, Honors classes, the MS3, which is an engineering and science program, and EAOP, which is a program that helps students with all post high school education and scholarships, that I had the opportunity to take because in my hometown these forms of classes don't exist.

# Sample Essay 1: Body Paragraph

## An Example of a Low Scoring Response:

### Areas to Improve

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### Areas to Improve:

#### ➤ Quality:

- Grammatical errors, diction, sentence structure, passive voice

#### ➤ Content:

- States but does not thoroughly highlight the process of overcoming the challenge of moving to Bakersfield
- Lacks in-depth explanation of what the applicant learned from the experience
- Minimal detail of how the experience has changed the applicant

# Sample Essay 1: Conclusion Paragraph

## An Example of a Low Scoring Response

I know I am not the best candidate you will have and that I may go against higher candidates. However, the fact that I have gotten this far in my education and have not given up makes me feel like I can actually win this scholarship in order to strive even more. To me education is an important part of being successful and even though it is not easy. I am also very creative because I am a beat producer and like working with money and I also am starting my own clothing brand from scratch in order to get more financial and business experience, but also to let my creative side flow because I sometimes don't show it for different reasons, some being money or time. I also have a very good sense of fashion and streetwear because I like to buy and resell streetwear items to get a hands on approach to stock market sense of situation because that is what reselling streetwear prepares one for. I am also a sports driven person because I am very passionate about tennis which is the only sport I currently play for my school but is the sport that I give my full potential to.

# Sample Essay 1: Conclusion Paragraph

## An Example of a Low Scoring Response: Areas to Improve

I know I am not the best candidate you will have and that I may go against higher candidates. However, the fact that I have gotten this far in my education and have not given up makes me feel like I can actually win this scholarship in order to strive even more. To me education is an important part of being successful and even though it is not easy. I am also very creative because I am a beat producer and like working with money and I also am starting my own clothing brand from scratch in order to get more financial and business experience, but also to let my creative side flow because I sometimes don't show it for different reasons, some being money or time. I also have a very good sense of fashion and streetwear because I like to buy and resell streetwear items to get a hands on approach to stock market sense of situation because that is what reselling streetwear prepares one for. I am also a sports driven person because I am very passionate about tennis which is the only sport I currently play for my school but is the sport that I give my full potential to.

### Areas to Improve:

#### ➤ Quality:

- Grammatical errors, diction, sentence structure, passive voice

#### ➤ Content:

- Lacks strong leading sentence
- Directly states applicant's qualities instead of portraying/showcasing those qualities
- Strays off track from the prompt
- Attempts to reveal other qualifications of the candidate but fails to connect the ideas to each other as well as to overall topic of the essay
- Does not effectively sum up the purpose of the essay or end with a bang

# Sample Essay 2: Introduction Paragraph An Example of a High Scoring Response

What might have been the academic highlight of my senior year was the day of the We The People regional competition, a mock congressional hearing competition. On that day, we were not only the 21<sup>st</sup> congressional champions, but the overall winners of the whole region. To clarify, it was not the award ceremony that I most fondly remember, as happy as that may have made me, nor the mock hearings either, though they were very nerve-racking. The medals that hang in my room are a confirmation of my accomplishment, yes, but they were not what I had accomplished. I remember We The People as countless hours on weekdays, weekends, and every single break, working in the school library researching the due process of law and the history of suffrage and memorizing and researching every inch of the constitution and those who wrote it in order to properly present and articulate my thoughts and facts through debate and explanation in front of a panel of judges. On those days, I honed not only my speech and debate skills, but my ability to study effectively, and the pencil and highlighter markings that once adorned my fingers can attest to that. Before, I had trouble with time management, finding excuses not to be able to study properly as a result of not having time because of all my other extracurricular activities. For We The People, however, I learned the meaning of dedication. I wanted to learn, to make my classmates and teacher proud, so I dedicated my time and effort into that. Many days, I would race in between tennis matches to join my unit in the library, returning before the next game began, and repeating the process. Other days, I attempted to do both at once, doing my math homework as I was asked questions regarding the Supreme Court's life tenure or the president's right to pardon and my stance on it backed up with evidence and examples. We The People took a lot of time and effort, of course, but the results were more than worth it, and now when I think about how I would rather nap than study, I remember the rewards and benefits studying once reaped and become motivated. Within We The People, studying was hardly a chore because I learned that it flows much easier and is a whole lot more fun and effective when you do it with a study group. In this case, my study group was my unit. I learned how to effectively work in study groups so that we all kept each other in check and motivated each other to work harder while simultaneously enjoying one another's company.

# Sample Essay 2: Introduction Paragraph An Example of a High Scoring Response: Strong Points

What might have been the academic highlight of my senior year was the day of the We The People regional competition, a mock congressional hearing competition. On that day, we were not only the 21<sup>st</sup> congressional champions, but the overall winners of the whole region. To clarify, it was not the award ceremony that I most fondly remember, as happy as that may have made me, nor the mock hearings either, though they were very nerve-racking. The medals that hang in my room are a confirmation of my accomplishment, yes, but they were not what I had accomplished. I remember We The People as countless hours on weekdays, weekends, and every single break, working in the school library researching the due process of law and the history of suffrage and memorizing and researching every inch of the constitution and those who wrote it in order to properly present and articulate my thoughts and facts through debate and explanation in front of a panel of judges. On those days, I honed not only my speech and debate skills, but my ability to study effectively, and the pencil and highlighter markings that once adorned my fingers can attest to that. Before, I had trouble with time management, finding excuses not to be able to study properly as a result of not having time because of all my other extracurricular activities. For We The People, however, I learned the meaning of dedication. I wanted to learn, to make my classmates and teacher proud, so I dedicated my time and effort into that. Many days, I would race in between tennis matches to join my unit in the library, returning before the next game began, and repeating the process. Other days, I attempted to do both at once, doing my math homework as I was asked questions regarding the Supreme Court's life tenure or the president's right to pardon and my stance on it backed up with evidence and examples. We The People took a lot of time and effort, of course, but the results were more than worth it, and now when I think about how I would rather nap than study, I remember the rewards and benefits studying once reaped and become motivated. Within We The People, studying was hardly a chore because I learned that it flows much easier and is a whole lot more fun and effective when you do it with a study group. In this case, my study group was my unit. I learned how to effectively work in study groups so that we all kept each other in check and motivated each other to work harder while simultaneously enjoying one another's company.

## Strong Points:

### ➤ Quality:

- Strong vocabulary
- Sentence variety
- Minimal grammatical errors

### ➤ Content:

- *Shows* rather than *tells* applicant's strong work ethic and dedication to overcoming challenges
- Lots of detail about applicant's accomplishment
- Strong leading sentence
- Provides insight into how the experience affects applicant



# Sample Essay 2: Body Paragraph An Example of a High Scoring Response

After becoming regional champions, I was ecstatic. Not only did we automatically qualify for the state competition at the state capitol in Sacramento, but we would be also able to spend more time studying together in the library which, at this point, we had begun to jokingly yet fondly refer to as second home. Once again, the prospect of success enticed us to work meticulously every single day. Competition day came, and it went. Just like that. The same feelings of nervousness, but with little comfort afterwards. We did not win this time, not qualifying to move forward one more time. Initially, it was heartbreaking, we were all immensely disappointed. I thought, months of hard work, just for it to end like that, without reward. But that was not true in the slightest. On our ride back from Sacramento, the bus was livelier than ever. My classmates were happily singing and laughing as if nothing was wrong, and I realized I had never lost anything, I had only gained. I asked myself, if I had the opportunity to do this sort of activity again, knowing we would be dejected after finding out we would not qualify for the national competition, would I still do it? Would I still sacrifice countless hours out of not only my instructor's time but mine as well to study so hard? The answer is always yes, without question or hesitation.

# Sample Essay 2: Body Paragraph

## An Example of a High Scoring Response: Strong Points

After becoming regional champions, I was ecstatic. Not only did we automatically qualify for the state competition at the state capitol in Sacramento, but we would be also able to spend more time studying together in the library which, at this point, we had begun to jokingly yet fondly refer to as second home. Once again, the prospect of success enticed us to work meticulously every single day. Competition day came, and it went. Just like that. The same feelings of nervousness, but with little comfort afterwards. We did not win this time, not qualifying to move forward one more time. Initially, it was heartbreaking, we were all immensely disappointed. I thought, months of hard work, just for it to end like that, without reward. But that was not true in the slightest. On our ride back from Sacramento, the bus was livelier than ever. My classmates were happily singing and laughing as if nothing was wrong, and I realized I had never lost anything, I had only gained. I asked myself, if I had the opportunity to do this sort of activity again, knowing we would be dejected after finding out we would not qualify for the national competition, would I still do it? Would I still sacrifice countless hours out of not only my instructor's time but mine as well to study so hard? The answer is always yes, without question or hesitation.

### Strong Points:

#### ➤ Quality:

- Minimal grammatical errors
- Sentence variety

#### ➤ Content:

- Builds up an attention grabbing story
- Reveals the disappointment of losing the competition in a way that highlights what the applicant learned from the experience
- Continues to address all aspects of the prompt

# Sample Essay 2: Conclusion Paragraph

## An Example of a High Scoring Response

My fondest memory was not receiving my medals at regionals, but rather all the days spent at our library, laughing about nerdy jokes about the supreme court, and spending hours writing speeches with my partner who only kept my spirits high and motivated when I was tired, and our days together. I had learned so much about what I wanted to do, and not only did it teach me a lot academically and socially, but We The People was the single most influential and deciding factor in my selecting my career. I wanted to work with the law. We The People forced me to tune into the news every single day in order to have context and think and debate things I had never considered before, and it made me want to implement some of those thoughts and ideas through real life and not just in a mock trial, but in a real one where I would be able to help people while practicing something I was genuinely passionate about. I genuinely cannot wait until I am able to study law and politics more in depth at college with a new study group I know will help keep one another in check. And after that, I would like to become a successful lawyer to not only help my parents out financially, but to also be able to come back to my community and tell the children here that, although our community gets brushed aside a lot and it may be discouraging and disheartening, you could still be so much and more of what you dream of, and I would be proof that, that was true. And they would hear because I would not be a motivational speaker from L.A. or some other large and popular place, but instead from the same exact place they are from.

# Sample Essay 2: Conclusion Paragraph

## An Example of a High Scoring Response: Strong Points

My fondest memory was not receiving my medals at regionals, but rather all the days spent at our library, laughing about nerdy jokes about the supreme court, and spending hours writing speeches with my partner who only kept my spirits high and motivated when I was tired, and our days together. I had learned so much about what I wanted to do, and not only did it teach me a lot academically and socially, but We The People was the single most influential and deciding factor in my selecting my career. I wanted to work with the law. We The People forced me to tune into the news every single day in order to have context and think and debate things I had never considered before, and it made me want to implement some of those thoughts and ideas through real life and not just in a mock trial, but in a real one where I would be able to help people while practicing something I was genuinely passionate about. I genuinely cannot wait until I am able to study law and politics more in depth at college with a new study group I know will help keep one another in check. And after that, I would like to become a successful lawyer to not only help my parents out financially, but to also be able to come back to my community and tell the children here that, although our community gets brushed aside a lot and it may be discouraging and disheartening, you could still be so much and more of what you dream of, and I would be proof that, that was true. And they would hear because I would not be a motivational speaker from L.A. or some other large and popular place, but instead from the same exact place they are from.

### Strong Points:

#### ➤Quality:

- Maintains minimal amount of grammatical errors throughout whole essay

#### ➤Content:

- Ends with an impactful statement
- Explains how this experience shaped the applicant's life and future
- Connects the overall experience with applicant's goals for the future

# Sample Essay 2: General Overview

## An Example of a High Scoring Response:

### Possible Areas for Improvement

Even the strongest essays have room for improvement!

### Overall Strengths:

- Applicant addressed all aspects of prompt
  - Explained in detail main accomplishment/disappointments
  - Described how experience affected applicant
  - Discussed the challenges
- Minimal grammatical errors
- Sentence variety

### Ways to Improve:

- Re-evaluate paragraph structures
  - Shorten introductory paragraph
  - lengthen and separate body paragraphs
- More proof reading

# Letters of Rec

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- ✓ Create your own Letter of Recommendation (LOR) Request form that includes information about you and the scholarship you are applying for
- ✓ Identify your recommenders and ask **EARLY**
  - The best LOR come from people who know you personally AND work at your school, are an employer, or volunteer leader
  - Never use family
  - Make sure to provide them with all relevant material
- ✓ Call in two weeks to see if it's done yet
- ✓ Be polite. Thank them for their time.

# Material for Your Recommenders

## ➤ Information about your high school experience

- ✓ Extracurriculars/involvements in school/community
- ✓ Achievements in school/community
- ✓ Any leadership positions

## ➤ Information about the Scholarship Application logistics

- ✓ Student name, contact information
- ✓ Scholarship name
- ✓ What the scholarship is for
- ✓ Date the application is due
- ✓ Date you'd like to have the letter by
- ✓ LOR description from scholarship
- ✓ Instructions on how the writer should get it back to you/how to submit



# College Readiness Timeline

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# Freshman/ Sophomore Year

- ☐ Get involved in school/community activities: consider participating in academic enrichment programs, internships, clubs on campus, sports, etc.
- ☐ Explore summer opportunities
- ☐ Keep track of your awards, honors, extracurricular activities, paid and volunteer work/hours.
- ☐ Save up money
- ☐ Learn the basics of paying for college



# Junior Year

## During the school year:

- Stay involved in school and keep track of accomplishments
- Research different financial aid options for attending college
- Start searching for scholarships
- Start selecting teachers as future recommendation letter authors

## Summer after Junior Year:

- Create an FSA ID to prepare for applying for FAFSA
- Gather documents needed to fill out financial aid applications
- Create a resume of high school activities and accomplishments
- Continue searching/applying for scholarships

# Senior Year

## Fall

- Oct. 1: Complete and submit the FAFSA
- Get your GPA submitted for Cal Grants
- Submit the CSS/Profile (if needed)
- Provide any additional paperwork requested by colleges or financial aid applications
- Ask for letters of recommendation EARLY
- Continue searching/applying for scholarships
- Get an estimate of how much each college will cost to attend

## Spring

- Assess college expenses and consider different financial aid options to pay for college
- Review/compare financial aid award letters
- Continue searching/applying for scholarships
- Follow up with scholarships/keep track of deadlines
- Prepare for paying the first college tuition bill (deadlines vary)

# THANKS!

