

We believe

this is your day.

Scholarship Application Tips

Job Applications, College Applications, Now This?

Not all applications can be easy, fun ones quickly downloaded from a smart phone. Even though scholarship applications may require just a little bit of effort, they pay off can be big. Think about it? Would you spend two hours or maybe a little more writing about the topic you know most about – you – for \$2,500 or \$5,000?

Scholarships are a great way to get rewarded for the hard work you've given your employer, your school and your community. Yes, it takes a little extra effort but the pay off is bank!

Here are some quick tips to make scholarship applications quick and painless.

1. Read everything. Twice.

The worst thing you can do is invest in a scholarship you're ultimately not eligible for or whose deadline you can't make.

2. Make a scholarship calendar.

Yes, a calendar. It can even be in your phone. But set personal deadlines to finish the applications and draft essays on time.

3. Sell yourself – again and again.

Take the time to write one strong essay about yourself in general. Cover all of your strengths and unique experiences and simply customize this essay for each scholarship.

4. Make a checklist of required paperwork.

Transcripts and other documentation may be needed. Get an early start gathering this stuff, and if possible, ask for extra copies. You never know when you'll need them again.

5. Include testimonials and letters of recommendations.

Other people's opinions can only make your story better. If possible, include testimonials and other endorsements from teachers, community leaders, coaches and employers.

6. Make it fun.

Think about it – a scholarship selection committee will have to read a lot of essays, many of them sounding exactly the same. Make your essay short, concise and full of personality. Let them know you get it (their position), want it (the scholarship) and will use it (demonstrate need and a purposeful plan).

7. Proofread. Proofread. Proofread.

Do you really want "its" instead of "it's" to stand between you and \$5,000?

For more information on McDonald's scholarships, visit www.aboutmcdonalds.com/students.

