

# Easy Ways to Impress a Scholarship Committee



Follow the directions provided with the application.

- You will probably be asked to attach documents such as a transcript, test scores, letters of recommendation, and a FASFA (federal financial aid) report.
- Most applications will require your signature or an electronic signature.



Show you are well-rounded. List all your extra-curricular activities in school, church, and the community. Include clubs, sports teams, music groups, and volunteer work. Leadership positions should always be mentioned. Share any honors or awards you have received.



Make your essay count.

- Be yourself. This is where your personality should come out and shine. Write about real events and real feelings, not what you think the committee wants to hear. Creativity is good because committees read lots of essays and you want to stand out. Coming across as bizarre is not so good so choose your words wisely!
- Respond directly to the essay without repeating what you have already mentioned in other sections of the application.
- Use good grammar.
- Have someone reliable proofread for errors.
- Spell check, spell check, spell check!



Always include work experience even if it is not specifically requested on the application.

- Committees do not like to award money to someone who is not willing to help pay part of their own college costs. If you don't have a job, explain why you don't.
- Babysitting counts as work. Unpaid jobs in a family business count, too.
- If you have been unable to take a part-time job because of family responsibilities (for example, caring for a younger sibling), say so.



Have a plan for the future.

- The more you know about what you want to major in, which college you plan to attend, and why you have chosen that route, the better "investment" you will be.
- If your plans are uncertain, explain why. Committees do not expect teenagers to have their lives planned out but they want to see that you're moving in the right direction.



Elaborate on any hardships you may have overcome - health, financial, first generation college attendee, family obligations, etc.

