

The Anatomy of a Winning Scholarship Essay

How to write a career goals or personal statement essay

1. The story

Your story doesn't have to be amazing—it just has to be real and honest.

- What motivates you?
- Why are you attending college in the first place?
- Why do you want to pursue your career?
- Who, what, or why do you wake up in the morning?

Think real hard about this as though it were to be made into a Hollywood movie. What would the story of your life be about?

2. How does your story relate to your academic pursuits or career plan?

Draw a connecting thread between your story and why area attending college. You want the reaction "oh, that's why he/she is so passionate about ____!"

3. What do you want to achieve academically and professionally, and how will you do it?

Do you plan on attending medical school? Do you have a dream job that you are shooting for after college? Where do you hope to be 10 years from now professionally? Tell them what you've accomplished to date and what's still left to be accomplished. Let the scholarship provider know what you are working toward and show them that you know exactly what it takes to get there.

4. Tie it all together

Close out the essay by recapping your story and your passion. When the scholarship provider puts down your essay, they should know who you are and what you want—and feel confident that you are going to do whatever it takes to achieve your goals.

Other notes:

Stay within the word count

Do not plagiarize

Check spelling and grammar

No sob stories

