



Latinx
Student Services

1st Gen Scholarship Workshop Packet
November 11, 2020

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THE WRITING PROCESS

- Refer to “Writing a Personal Essay” Handout.

CHARACTERISTICS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR PAPER

- Use language that is direct, clear, and sounds like you. Avoid slang and overused expressions.
- Create a tone that shows confidence, but not arrogance; sincerity, not stuffiness.
- When appropriate, connect sentences with expressions like “then,” “in addition,” “finally,” “in contrast,” so that one idea seems to move logically into the next.

SELECTING A FORMAT FOR YOUR ESSAY

There is no one correct way to organize a personal essay. You might try using the following formats to get started, and then use your common sense to order your information logically.

Format 1

1. Past

- a. Relevant background information
- b. Reasons for attending/returning to school

2. Present

- a. College of Western Idaho progress
- b. Accomplishments while at College of Western Idaho (they might be accomplishments other than academic successes)

3. Future

- a. Plans and goals

Format 2

1. You, the person

- a. Family
- b. Personal values

2. You, the student

- a. Academic achievements (including grades)
- b. Other achievements while in school (jobs, organizations, teams)

3. You, the scholarship candidate

- a. Why you should be awarded a scholarship
- b. What you would do with the scholarship
- c. What are your goals?

BRAINSTORMING QUESTIONS

Write answers to these questions to get ideas for your personal essay.

1. What academic accomplishments are you proud of?
2. What other accomplishments are you proud of?
3. What are your personal strengths?
4. What positive changes have you made in your life?
5. Why did you come, or come back, to school?
6. What realistic goals have you set for yourself?
7. Where are you in reaching those goals?
8. What course of study have you set for yourself at CWI?
9. Why do you need a scholarship?
10. What would you do with a scholarship?
11. What are your achievements in college (despite obstacles, if relevant)?
12. What are your goals?
13. How will a scholarship help you attain those goals?

BRAINSTORMING WORKSHEET

One of the best methods of brainstorming is to begin with a grand list of potential topics and slowly let the best rise to the top. In order to generate a laundry list of important people, events, accomplishments and activities in your life, fill in the worksheet below.

If you were writing your autobiography right now, what would be five to ten events or things that would have to be included? It will be easiest to think over your life chronologically.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Ask a couple of friends or family members to pick five adjectives or personality traits that characterize you. List them here:

Friend or Family Member #1

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

Friend or Family Member #2

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

List five accomplishments you have made over the last five years. (Do not limit yourself to accomplishments for which you have been formally recognized since the most interesting essays are often based on accomplishments that may have seemed insignificant at the time but become crucial when placed in the context of your life.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

List three to five things on which you consider yourself very knowledgeable.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

What are your most important extracurricular or community activities?

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

List 5 people whom you respect and admire. They can be real or fictional, dead or alive.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

List two times in life when you failed miserably and two times when you were a fantastic success.

Miserable failures

Fantastic successes

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Ask your parents for six events in your life that they will always remember.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

List four reasons why you want this scholarship.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What would you do with this scholarship?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CURRENTLY OPEN OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIP	BRIEF ELIGIBILITY DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DEADLINE	VISIT TO APPLY
Idaho Opportunity Scholarship	Graduate of Idaho High School attending an accredited college/university within the state of Idaho.	Up to \$3,500	March 1st	https://boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships/idaho-opportunity-scholarship/
Idaho Governor's Cup Scholarship	Students with a history in community service or who are currently working to support self and/or family.	\$3,000 per year	February 15th	https://boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships/idaho-governors-cup-scholarship/
Idaho Latino Foundation Scholarship	Students of Hispanic/Latino descent and will be attending an Idaho college/university.	Varies	January 15th	https://www.idaholsf.com/apply/

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIP	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	OPEN	VISIT TO APPLY
CWI Institutional Scholarships	Numerous scholarship opportunities offered by the CWI foundation for various CWI programs (Academic, CTE, WD, Dual Credit). One application for ALL scholarships.	Varies	January-March 2021	http://cwi.edu/current-students/grants-scholarships
The Lightfoot Foundation Scholarship	Nonprofit organization established to provide financial assistance through scholarship, to students who are looking to further their education.	Varies	March-April 2021	https://lightfootfoundation.com/educational-grants/
Idaho NEXT STEPS: Idaho Scholarship Listing	100 Idaho offered private and business scholarships.	Varies	Varies	https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/scholarship-listing?&page=1