**Scholarship Tips**

**Tips on Winning Scholarships**

* Prioritize your applications by deadline and the expected value of the scholarship
* Use a calendar and checklist to get organized
* Create an accomplishments resume
* Tailor your application to the sponsor’s goals
* Read and follow the instructions
* Make your application stand out from the crowd
* Ask to be nominated
* Practice on a copy of the application form

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**Writing a Winning Scholarship Essay**

* Use an outline to organize your thoughts
* Give examples and be specific
* Personalize your essay and be passionate
* Write about something of interest to you
* Talk about your impact on other people
* Proofread a printed copy of the essay for spelling and grammar errors

**Tips for Letters of Recommendation**

* Ask a teacher who will provide you a *great* letter of recommendation
* Be sure the recommendation is relevant to the scholarship sponsor’s goal
* Provide the recommender with a copy of your resume
* Thank the recommender for writing the letter

**Additional Scholarship Application Tips**

* Use a professional email address, such as firstname.lastname@gmail.com
* Clean up the content of your Facebook account, removing inappropriate and immature material
* Google your name to see what shows up
* Make a photocopy of your application before mailing it

**Most Common Application Mistakes**

* Missing deadlines
* Failing to proofread the application
* Failing to follow directions (essay length, number of recommendations)
* Omitting required information
* Applying for an award when you don’t qualify
* Failing to apply for an award for which you are eligible
* Failing to tailor the application to the sponsor
* Writing a boring essay