**Tips for Writing Scholarship Essays and College Essays**

1. **Choose a topic that only you can write about.** What makes you unique? Don’t focus on the great aspects of a particular college, the amount of dedication it takes to be a doctor or the number of extracurricular activities you took part in during high school. Do share your personal story and thoughts, take a creative approach and highlight areas that aren’t covered in other parts of the application, like your high school records.
2. **Tell a story.** Have a beginning, middle, and end, and focus your essay on one or two over-arching ideas. Don’t try to cover too many topics. This will make the essay sound like a resume that doesn’t provide any details about you. Do focus on one aspect of yourself so the readers can learn more about who you are. Remember that the readers must be able to find your main idea and follow it from beginning to end.
3. **Share details of your background.** If you have been forced to overcome difficult situations in your past, do not be embarrassed to write about. Tell about the situation, how your life was affected, and how you overcame the situation. Showcasing your ability to overcome difficulties that your peers may not have faced can be beneficial.
4. **Write about you.** Make sure your essay reveals who you are and helps to complete the picture you’ve outlined in the rest of your application.
5. **Demonstrate emotional maturity.** If you choose to write about problems in your life, use a mature, composed tone. Make sure you’re ready to write about them in a way that shows personal growth.
6. **Show, don’t tell.** Use anecdotes and vivid description to illustrate your story.
7. **Observe word limits.** Try to approach the word limit, but don’t go over. Each word should be carefully chosen.
8. **Edit carefully.** Use feedback to edit and revise. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and formatting should all be flawless.
9. **Chose words that feel natural.** Don’t use big words just because they sound impressive. Use the word that best expresses your thought.
10. **Don’t be cliché. Avoid generic or trite statements.** If you have a sentence that begins with “this may sound cliché, but…” then it may not be worth including.
11. **Ask a teacher or parent to proofread the essay.** Don’t turn your essay in without proofreading it, and don’t rely only on your computer’s spell check to catch mistakes.
12. **Let your voice shine through.**

**Apply Texas Essays for 2014-2015**

**Some colleges will require essays with the application if the applicant is not an automatic admit. The colleges may also require the essays for the scholarship application. These are the essays as of this fall through Apply Texas.**

Essay A
Describe a setting in which you have collaborated or interacted with people whose experiences and/or beliefs differ from yours. Address your initial feelings, and how those feelings were or were not changed by this experience.

Essay B
Describe a circumstance, obstacle or conflict in your life, and the skills and resources you used to resolve it. Did it change you? If so, how?

Essay C
Considering your lifetime goals, discuss how your current and future academic and extra-curricular activities might help you achieve your goals.