

What NOT TO DO on your scholarship applications!

Concerns expressed by scholarship committees regarding scholarship applications received:

1. Applications are often sloppy and appear just thrown together. They are not assembled as requested and lack signatures from parents and students.
2. Students applying often do not meet the eligibility criteria set forth to apply for the scholarship. Obviously they have not read the instructions.
3. Students are not reading directions for the individual scholarships
Essays are off topic or so very brief they do not address the topic at all.
When a scholarship is based on volunteer hours served, they often do not meet the criteria for the particular scholarship. They may give total hours for four years in high school instead of the requested “past 12 months”.
4. Letters of recommendation do not meet the criteria. Any scholarship on the Local Application List can have two school people. Others may require someone from school and someone from the community.
5. Students are not providing the requested and required information regarding financial need.
6. Applications are incomplete—often missing a key component requested by the scholarship committee.
7. Essays are often poorly written, have grammatical errors, spelling errors and are often off topic. They are often so brief that the topic is not covered. They essays should always be typed, never hand written.

Most important: Students are not responding to scholarship award letters received. Questions pertaining to school address where they will be attending, social security numbers, student I.D. numbers, etc., are necessary so that money can be sent to the student’s college billing account. This complaint comes from small to large scholarship committees.

When the scholarship award letter is sent to the student, this is an excellent time for a thank you note to be sent from the student to the scholarship committee. The scholarship sponsors very seldom receive thank you notes from students and are reluctant to award any future scholarship money to the student.

“Following directions and demonstrating gratitude are critical to success in life; and unfortunately, many students (and adults) suffer from a lack of understanding of their importance.” Kathy Hall, Education Foundation