Scholarship Essay Tips

WHAT IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT:
- Your personal statement is an essay that is used to provide the donor with a brief understanding of who you are as an individual. This should give the reader a glimpse of your daily life.
- Possible topics to include are: Family background, academic plans and career goals, personal and academic rewards, extra-curricular activities, community service, and your financial need.
- Some scholarships will require that you include a personal statement with your application and some may not; however, it is always a good idea to have a personal statement on file to include with your application.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A GOOD PERSONAL STATEMENT:
- It is highly important for you to grab the readers’ attention in a unique manner. There are plenty of other applicants who decided to be cliché, but that is not going to win you the scholarship. You must make the reader want to invest his/her time in your essay.
- Be certain to cover all of the qualifications that are specified in the application into be considered for the scholarship.
- It is critical that you highlight your strengths. If you are strong in one area but not another, be sure to put more emphasis on the richer part of your essay.

EDITING YOUR ESSAY:
1. Reviewing is one of the most important components of writing an essay. With that being said, you should review the draft yourself as well as a peer or adult.
2. If time permits, you make the necessary corrections and then go through the process once more.
3. Finalize the draft and be sure to make photocopies as well as an electronic copy.

DO’S:
1. Be brief in your descriptions.
2. Identify any long-term goals.
3. Use present tense.
4. Allow time for breaks while writing.
5. Follow the rules exactly how they are stated.
6. Be creative.
7. Know your audience—Study the organization.

DON'T’S
1. Don’t replicate the information that you have on your application.
2. Don’t compliment yourself.
3. Don’t make too many statements about what you plan to do.
4. Don’t begin with “Hello, my name is...”.
5. Don’t “text talk”– Write professionally.
6. Don’t rush your writing.