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| **Lesson 3**  **Writing the Body of the Scholarship Essay** | http://images.clipartpanda.com/pencil-coloring-pages-notepad-and-pencil-coloring-page.jpg |

In the body of the essay, all the preparation up to this point comes to fruition. The topic you have chosen must now be explained, described, or argued.

Each main idea that you wrote down in your diagram or outline will become one of the body paragraphs. If you had three or four main ideas, you will have three or four body paragraphs. Plan to devote one paragraph to each of these sections and introduce each section with a clear topic sentence indicating which area you plan to discuss.

Example:

a- I have always chosen challenging courses, and have a very good academic record.

b- I have developed strong leadership skills, and have learned to interact with a wide variety of people while working several different jobs.

c- I also have a good record of community service.

Make sure each paragraph flows nicely into the next. Using good transitions can help. This includes transition words, repeating key phrases, etc. And remember; make sure your paragraphs support your main point, or thesis.

You must stress how your experience helped you to develop the kinds of skills and qualities that selection committees are looking for in a good candidate. Some of these skills and qualities are:

Knowledge of chosen field, carefulness of work

Motivation, enthusiasm, seriousness of purpose

Creativity, originality, ingenuity in problem-solving

Ability to plan and carry out research, organization

Ability to express thought in speech and writing

Maturity, emotional stability, ability to withstand stress and face challenges

Leadership

Self-reliance, initiative, independence, adaptability

Responsibility, ability to make sound judgments

Effectiveness with people, tact, ability to work with others, communicate effectively

Community service, volunteerism

The challenge of the scholarship essay is to make sure that you stress a constant theme: that many of your past experiences have helped to prepare you to be a good candidate for the scholarship.

Choice of words is important. You must be modest and yet ‘brag’ about your abilities at the same time. Use words like ‘good candidate,’ ‘well-prepared,’ ‘good leaderships skills’ and other terms that remain modest while demonstrating your abilities. Avoid exaggerated terms like ‘fantastic background,’ ‘my eternal passion for learning,’ ‘my exceptional skills,’ ‘my outstanding leadership ability’. Instead, let the evidence speak for itself.

Now, for your scholarship essay writing you should elaborate your body paragraphs by writing the main points and the sub points.

Using your outline, build your body sentences.

1. Start by writing down one of your main ideas, in sentence form.
2. Next, write down each of your supporting points for that main idea, but leave four or five lines in between each point.
3. In the space under each point, write down some elaboration for that point. Elaboration can be further description or explanation or discussion.
4. Join the sentences and elaborate your paragraph. Add linking devices to make your points clear.

**Example (main idea I):**

Topic: Reasons why I would like to win this scholarship.

Thesis statement:

**I want to win this scholarship to improve professionally,** to improve my English and to get to know other cultures.

**Main Idea I: I want to improve professionally**

*Learning about the specifics of this field will provide me the necessary tools for my professional life.*

**Supporting idea: I will have the chance to be in touch with specialists.**

*Being able to learn directly from the people who have been doing research in this field is of great importance for me to build my inner confidence.*

**Supporting idea: I will interact with colleagues from different countries.**

*In this globalised world we are living in today, it is important to be in contact with different people from different areas to learn from each other and to solve issues together.*

**Main idea I paragraph**:

*Learning about the specifics of this field will provide me the necessary tools for my future professional life. Therefore, this scholarship will help me improve professionally. First of all, because I* will have the chance to be in touch with specialists**.** *Being able to learn directly from the people who have been doing research in this field is of great importance for me to build my inner confidence. Second, this scholarship will provide me with the chance to interact* with colleagues from different countries**.** *In this globalised world we are living in today, it is important to be in contact with different people from different areas to learn from each other and to solve issues together.*