**Lesson 2**

**Scholarship Essay**

An important requirement in the process of applying for a scholarship is the submission of an essay. Scholarships, particularly highly competitive academic ones, often require essays outlining the reasons applicants deserve this scholarship. This is your opportunity to let your unique talents shine through in a clear, well-written essay. An essay on why you deserve a scholarship should focus on the achievements you've had that are relevant to the scholarship. It should also highlight the talents you bring to a program and the ways in which choosing you can benefit the school or program you've selected.

**1. Read this sample of a scholarship essay in the field of electronic engineering and answer the questions below.**

Scholarship Essay

As long as I remember myself, I was interested in the way things around me worked. When I was a little child (as somebody once told me, because I don’t remember it myself), I was constantly taking apart toys and other things I was able to lay my hands on. When I was asked what I did it for, I answered: “To know how to repair them when they break”. Although I am not very sure about the reality of this occasion, I tried to make this idea the principle of my life.

When at school, I participated in all activities, clubs and societies that had anything to do with engineering, computer sciences and electronics. By the end of my school years, I understood that it was electronic engineering and communications that were my greatest passion. Electronic communications is the field of science that has completely changed our lives in a period of time less than several decades, creating the picture of the world that is completely different from what we have been used to for millennia. And I am very eager to take part in this changing.

In my undergraduate years I studied electronic engineering, linear electronics and communication systems, which further narrowed the fields of study I was going to pursue. The next steps I am going to take are Master’s degree in electrical engineering with a PhD in the same field in a more distant future. I consider this scholarship to be a very good possibility for me to find use for the knowledge I have already acquired and further develop skills and abilities I managed to accumulate so far, while, of course, studying new things under the direction of highly experienced specialists.

The sphere of knowledge that interests me most at the moment and the possible direction of my research is coding theory in electronic communications, and I’ve heard that the New Hampshire University has a very promising research on this topic going on at the time being. I am sure that there is no better place to continue education in the field I have chosen, and that tutelage I may get here is second to none. I also believe that it is the best place for me to find use of my abilities and make a contribution to the sphere of science I have chosen.

**Choose the correct option:**

As a child, the author used to disassemble his toys to…

1. Be able to fix them afterwards.
2. Get to know all the parts
3. To have fun

Nowadays the author wants to study…

1. A Masters course on Linear electronics
2. A Masters course on electronic communications
3. A PhD on electronic communications

**Are the following sentences about the first essay true or false?**

* \_\_\_\_\_ When at school, he already knew electronic engineering was his passion.
* \_\_\_\_\_ The author wants to make a contribution in the field of coding theory in electronic communications.

**Reference: What are the following pronouns related to?**

Paragraph 1: “To know how to repair **them** when **they** break” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Below is another example of a scholarship essay by a former student of mechanical engineering at UNaM. The paragraphs are not in the correct order. Read and unjumble the paragraphs.**

1. Many are the reasons why I would like to take this course

\_\_\_\_\_ Secondly, to speak English is a valuable tool in all aspects of professional life as it is the dominant language of business and global communication, especially regarding Engineering, as the best and most innovative companies of the World use English in their Headquarters. What is more, I believe that having approved the “First Certificate in English” and “Certificate in Advanced English” exams will help me act in a natural way, and make the most out of the course.

\_\_\_\_\_ To sum up, taking this course would mean a steep growth in personal and professional aspects, and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

\_\_\_\_\_ To start with, I have a great interest in American culture, so I am sure this course will help me get in touch with a very different way of life, meet new people, learn about their traditions and make new friends. Also, ever since I was a little child, I was keen on learning and improving my English abilities. I have been studying it for many years, and having the opportunity of living an experience of this kind, will help me grow personally and to prove myself what I have been building over the last years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Last but not least, the knowledge to be acquired in the lapse of the course and a new, different way of seeing things, will help me when facing new projects in life.

**3. Below, there´s another sample of a Scholarship Essay by a former student of industrial engineering at UNaM. Read the essay and complete the missing sentences**

|  |
| --- |
| Please, describe in not more than 500 words, why you would like to take this course and how do you think it will help you both personally and professionally (in English).  **The Reasons Why I Would Like To Win The Scholarship**  I am John Doe from Argentina, and I am currently attending last year of the industrial engineering study program at Universidad Nacional de Misiones. I would like to win this scholarship to improve my proficiency in English\_\_\_\_\_\_. Because of that, it is really necessary to develop my communicative skills to work as an active member of a multinational work team.  I have been studying English for several years. I attended English classes at high school, and in addition,\_\_\_\_\_\_. I also had two ninety-hour English subjects at university, and took an extracurricular course to improve my oral skills. However, I have not had the chance yet to stay in a country where English is the official language. Therefore, this scholarship would give me the opportunity of, for the first time, interacting directly with a completely new speech community, practicing the skills acquired over the years and enhancing my English language competence.  With the increasing globalization process which countries are going through,\_\_\_\_\_\_. As a result, it is relevant that, as the professional I intend to become, I can speak the language fluently which will allow me to work in an international atmosphere without language limitations. Besides, in this way, I might be able to contribute more significantly to the development of my country.  Issues like the development of alternative energy sources and raising awareness on the environment cannot be solved in isolation. These problems can only be solved with multidisciplinary work and with the integration of professionals from different countries,\_\_\_\_\_\_. According to my short experience in research as a member of a research group at university, I have noticed that most scientific works are published in English, and that only a few are translated into Spanish.  The United States has become a leader country during the last two centuries,\_\_\_\_\_\_. In this context and due to my orientation as a student of engineering, the opportunity to have a direct contact with the country will allow me to take a closer look at this industrial development, providing me another view of the industry and will help me enhance the necessary skills to become a leader in my community.  In addition to improving my communicative skills, this scholarship will give me the possibility to improve my cultural awareness\_\_\_\_\_\_. Hopefully, this experience will let me understand other points of view and interchange ideas and thoughts about common concerns. It will also help me grow up as a professional and as a person, standing back from myself becoming aware of other people’s cultural values, beliefs and perceptions. |

1. … by interacting with other students from different places, with different cultures in a different context.
2. … I had classes at a private institute at the same time.
3. … English has become the “lingua franca” of the world.
4. … working together as a team with a common goal.
5. …as this language is really important in an international labor environment.
6. … achieving an industrial development that has been an example and source of inspiration for many other countries of the world.

**Essay Writing**

Writing involves a process. So, do not panic. Take a step at a time. Let´s work with the following tasks:

1. Brainstorming
2. Thesis statement elaboration
3. Outline organization

**Brainstorming**

Make a list of topics, a flow chart whatever helps you organize possible ideas.

Here are some questions to get you started.

• What are some of your major accomplishments? These do not have to be formal awards; they can be anything meaningful to you. Why do you consider them major accomplishments?

• Besides academics, what else have you done that shows strong character? Why is it important to you?

• Have you had a particularly difficult time in your life? How did you change because of it?

• What distinguishes you from others? Talents, qualities, etc.

• Have you ever struggled or fought for something? Did you succeed or fail? How did you grow because of it?

**Thesis statement**

All essays, including scholarship essays, need a thesis statement outlining your main argument. A thesis will help you keep your essay focused, and for scholarship essays, your thesis might argue that you deserve the scholarship because of prior academic achievement or because of the ways in which the scholarship will enable you to continue a program. Every sentence and paragraph in your essay should relate to your thesis. Avoid veering into off-topic discussions.

Your thesis statement will have two parts. The first part states the topic. The second part states the point of the essay by simply listing the main ideas you will discuss. You can start with a strong umbrella statement outlining your goals, and indicating the main categories you will be discussing in your essay.

Examples:

My academic achievements, my work experience, and my community service have all helped me to work towards my goals.

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

* Read the following extracts from scholarship essays. Identify the thesis statements.

*Which are the main benefits and reasons to apply for a scholarship mentioned?*

“Since I was studying my undergraduate studies, I have developed a great interest in knowing other countries, other cultures and, especially, to continue studying. After graduating, I planned to start a master abroad, because I considered that it would help me to improve my knowledge beyond what my country had to offer. So I started to work because I didn’t have the money to afford the study, yet I always imagined myself sharing with foreign partners, learning things in a good university.”

“I am John Doe from Argentina, and I am currently attending last year of the industrial engineering study program at Universidad Nacional de Misiones. I would like to win this scholarship to improve my proficiency in English as this language is really important in an international labor environment. Because of that, it is really necessary to develop my communicative skills to work as an active member of a multinational work team.”

“Getting my degree from the University of Glasgow would mean that I would be able to practice engineering anywhere in the world, and would offer me the priceless opportunity to explore places outside of the United States. I feel that this will make me a more well-rounded, educated individual with a broader idea of what it means to be an engineer and member of society on a global scale, not simply a national one.”

“The idea of studying abroad was always on my mind since I was 17 years old. Frankly speaking (I don’t know whether it is good or not), but I am a terrible perfectionist, especially when it comes to my self-development and skills improvement – I see that there are so many things that I don’t know, so many cultures I want to explore, so many people I would like to share the experience with. And the thing that could provide me with all these unique opportunities was studying abroad. I chose 4 universities where I wanted to study, and one of them – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – gave me the scholarship for obtaining the Master’s degree here in Milan.”

“My decision to study abroad and particularly in Europe was taken because of my strong belief that while going for higher education one should not only aim for enriching the subject knowledge, but also it should be considered as an opportunity to study the culture, customs, and rituals of different societies. Europe’s fascinating old history of civilization and rich culture is a great starting point for me.”

**Outline**

The purpose of an outline or diagram is to put your ideas about the topic on paper, in a moderately organized format. The structure you create here may still change before the essay is complete, so don't agonize over this.

Begin your outline by writing your topic at the top of the page. Next, write the main ideas that you have about your topic, or the main points that you want to make. Finally, write the facts or information that supports that main idea.

Topic:

I. Main idea

A. supporting idea

B. supporting idea

II. Main idea

A. supporting idea

III. Main idea

A. supporting idea

B. supporting idea

C. supporting idea

Example:

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

Main Idea I: I want to improve professionally

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

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

Main Idea II: I want to improve my English

Supporting idea: I will attend many classes in English.

Supporting idea: I will interact with native speakers in academic and informal contexts.

Main Idea III: I want to get to know other cultures.

Supporting idea: I will interact with people not only fron the USA, but also from other countries.

Supporting idea: I will share my own culture with my colleagues

**Task**

Now it is your turn to begin with the process of scholarship essay writing. Taking into account the scholarship you have found, brainstorm your ideas, write your thesis statement and organize your outline. Upload this task in our virtual classroom.

**Choose form the following topics and create an outline.**

* Reasons why I deserve this scholarship
* How will this scholarship help you attain your goals?
* Reasons why I apply this scholarship
* Reasons why I would like to improve my English.