

## **SUNY Niagara General Scholarship Essay Writing Tips**

**Write a 2-page, double-spaced typed essay (Max 500 words). This written essay is used for all scholarship applications.**

**The most important feature of your essay is the subject matter. When you begin to brainstorm subject ideas consider the following points:**

- It's all about YOU! This is your chance to talk about who you are, and what you have done in your life that has made you the person you are today. Include why you feel you would be a good candidate for scholarships.
- Discuss your personal and professional goals and mention how specific events have helped get you to where you are today.
- Incorporate any volunteer, community, or extracurricular activities that you have been involved with in addition to internships or jobs if relevant.
- Outline any specific interests you have had that relate to your intended major.
- If you've had to overcome any adversity, talk about it, but don't exaggerate. An example would be talking about the most difficult time in your life, and how it impacted you.
- Explain why you need financial assistance and what you would do with the scholarship money if awarded.
- End with a convincing conclusion thanking the committee for their time, etc.
- Use good grammar \* double check your spelling \* Proofread!
- Lastly, have someone else proofread your essay out-loud to you. You will be able to hear how it sounds to the reviewers!

**Any questions, drop by the Scholarships Office in Financial Aid**

**Or contact directly:**

**Joseph Losito**

**Scholarships Coordinator, SUNY Niagara**

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