

DCSD Foundation Scholarship Application Tips for Students

1. Use an Email You Check Often

Throughout the application process, you will receive important reminders and messages. Email is the primary communication tool used by our affiliate. Make sure you use an email that you regularly access. It is recommended that you don't use your high school email address as you will not have access to that account after you graduate. It is also recommended that you add the address dollarsforscholars@scholarshipamerica.org to your safe sender's list to ensure you receive all email communication regarding your account and scholarship application.

2. Start Your Application Early

It does take time to complete your application and gather the information needed, so make sure you start early. References and School Counselors should have at least two weeks before the deadline to complete your information. Moreover, make sure you let your reference and school counselor know that they will be getting an email asking them to complete information for a scholarship and what the deadline is.

3. Read instructions thoroughly

Be sure to read each scholarship eligibility requirements and instructions thoroughly. On our website, (decorah.dollarsforscholars.org) you will find a letter to download with instructions. Applications that do not adhere to the provided instructions may not be considered for the scholarship. Also, be sure to include everything that is required.

You can find a list of DCSD Foundation Scholarship at <http://bit.ly/dcsdfscholarships>

4. Complete the application in full

Don't leave any section of the application blank. Accuracy and completeness are essential when filling out scholarship applications. For any required essays, make sure you take the time to develop your essays and to give a detailed, specific answer. Remember, those scoring your essay will not see your name or know who you are, so it is important you provide as much detail as possible to maximize your score.

DCSD Foundation Essay Writing Tip Sheet

1. Show who YOU are!

- Essays are your chance to show something unique about you that is not already represented on your application.
- Think about what you are passionate about and how to incorporate this passion into your essay.
- What do you want the scholarship organization to know about you?

2. Be Professional

- Scholarship essays are not long tweets or Facebook posts
- No lower case “i’s”, no OMGs
- Google yourself before your scholarship organization does-- keep your social media clean
- Use a professional sounding email address

3. Review Your Essay

Does my essay...

- Address all parts of the essay question?
- Sound vague, or general?
 - Use specifics. Tell a story, with a beginning, middle and end. No fillers, avoid summarizing at the end.
- Meander all over the place?
 - Start with a strong statement.
 - Connect what you have done to what you will do in the future.
- Sound familiar, like a cliché?
 - Tell the story only you can tell. Make it your own.

More Helpful Hints

- Write up essay in word processing software such as Microsoft Word and then copy into the student profile.
- Check for grammar and spelling.
- Save the essay for future use in another application.