

ACTIVITY 3: SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY SUCCESS

In this activity students will analyze features of strong scholarship essays to use in planning and developing their own writing..

1. Open the activity by discussing the differences between a college application essay and scholarship essay. These may include:
 - Application essays are often more general personal statements that allow applicants to share just about anything about themselves; scholarship essays frequently ask applicants to address a very specific question.
 - Application essays are used to gauge an applicant’s ability to communicate well and to assess how an applicant could enhance the student population at a particular school. Scholarship essays are used to determine how well a student meets the scholarship criteria, and represents the values of the organization sponsoring the award.
2. Divide students into small groups and distribute a different sample essay to each group. Sample essays may be found at websites such as:
 - www.studentnow.com/collegelist/essayexample.html
 - www.collegeadmissionsessay.com/sample_essays.asp.
3. Allow time for students to read, discuss and analyze each essay and record what they feel are the strengths of each piece.
4. When each group has finished, ask each group to read their essay aloud to the rest of the class, and then share their analysis. Invite additional feedback from other groups.
5. After all groups have shared, have the class generate a list of some common strengths shared by the winning essays. Discuss ways they can apply those features to their own writing.

Take it to the NEXT level:

Have students search websites such as www.collegeboard.com and www.finaid.com for more essay writing tips and compile a list or PowerPoint presentation to share with the class.

To follow reading and discussion of “Scholarship FAQs” on page 42.



Sunshine State Standards:

- LA.1112.4.3.1
The student will write essays that state a position or claim, present detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning to support effective arguments and emotional appeals, and acknowledge and refute opposing arguments.

Materials/Preparation:

- Prior to the activity, download and print copies of several sample winning scholarship essays that students will use for this activity. (See step 2.)