

Tips for Writing Your Essay

Topic: Supporting evidence about why you are deserving of a scholarship

This is **your** opportunity to tell your story. While the following bullets are not required for your essay, they provide ideas for you to elaborate on your story.

- Reflect on who you are, where you came from, what values you hold, and how this scholarship will help you reach your goals.
- Share a bit about your hometown and your family background. Do you come from a large family? Do you have other siblings that are in school too? Are you from a single-parent household?
- Instead of saying, "I'm a hard worker and this scholarship will help me reduce my debt," elaborate in detail about what kind of a student you are, where you work, how many hours you work, and clarify how it impacts you.
- Include details in your essay that reflect who you have become here at CMU. How have you developed throughout your college career? Describe how your development will help you throughout your career.
- Write about your volunteerism. Your resume may already reflect what organizations you are a part of, but elaborate on your involvement by describing how you give back to the community and why you choose to do what you do.
- Most important, describe your plans after graduation. Write about the career path you envision for yourself.