

3 Paragraph Essay Outline for Scholarship Request

This essay is different from the five-paragraph (500 word) essay you will learn to write in university English Composition class. This is a shorter essay with a purpose to state your educational goal(s), your reasoning for making this career/job choice, and to ask for financial aid (250-500 words).

Paragraph 1: Introduction	Includes introduction narrative and thesis statement – goal(s). Introduction options are: broad to narrow, explain importance, brief story, questions and quotations. Does your introduction “hook” the reader?
Paragraph 2: Discussion	Begin with a topic sentence that supports your chosen field of study, and then follow with supporting details or evidence and plan. In your plan, is the wording parallel? Chronological? Are there enough details to support your statements? Is the data from reliable sources? Are you making good transition statements to move from one sentence to the next? Is it coherent and smooth?
Paragraph 3: Conclusion	Includes a summary, final thought, and somehow restates your thesis. Here is where you state financial resources will help you meet your goals. You might conclude with predictions about your future. Thank you is appropriate.

INTRODUCTION – two parts (Narrative to hook the reader and a thesis (goal) statement)

Part I: Narrative examples:

- Start with a story about your life – what lead you to choose university or vocational training at this point in your life, or
- State some statistics about education or the lack thereof for workers, or
- Describe the perfect life with your goals in mind, or
- Describe the challenges of jobs for women, men, rural, urban, disabled, skilled, trades, degree holders in your area, or
- Quote someone about the state of education, industry, country, etc.

Part II: Thesis Statement: In the last sentence of the introductory paragraph, state your educational/training goal(s)

Example: My goals are to become a nurse and find employment close to home.

Example: My goal is to start my own XXX business.

Example: My goal is to become a large animal veterinarian.

Example: My goal is to become an airline pilot and travel the world.

Example: My goal is to continue my family’s legacy as a cattle rancher.

DISCUSSION

Topic Sentence: State why job XXX is a good choice for you. Support with reliable data and evidence. Follow with your plan in logical order.

Supporting detail examples:

- job market in your chosen industry – labor department information
- required education or training and who offers it – why you chose XXX

- good earning opportunity – salary information
- interest and location opportunities – just love animals, always dreamed of ..., rural lifestyle, small-town jobs, chance to travel/relocate, be part of a solution to a community need
- return after years of struggle without training or a dead-end job or boring job
- expected outcome to meet your goal(s)

Plan examples:

- Plan: 1. Start with two-year program
2. Get some hands-on training and a job
- Plan 1. Start with Entrepreneur online coursework
2. Supplement with business classes at XXX
3. Apply for a small development loan
- Plan 1. Pursue an undergraduate degree in biology at XXX
2. Go to Vet school at XXX
3. Return to my home town to practice
- Plan 1. Enroll at XXX flight school for small aircraft
2. Seek a job with the BLM to get flight hours
3. Seek further opportunities for larger aircraft
- Plan 1. Pursue a degree in agriculture management at XXX
2. Run a ranch of my own

CONCLUSION

Summary - Thesis restatement and ask for financial support to help you meet your goals.

- It is okay to say your family has XX children and limited resources, or
- you are a single parent and need some financial help, or
- you have a long road of education in front of you and financial aid will help relieve some of the burden, or
- you would appreciate any financial help that the organization would provide – it would be good to mention the organization by name here
- thank the organization for the opportunity to apply for scholarship

A note about online applications:

Typically, online applications will not allow you to upload an essay, but your written essay should have all the information you need to cut-and-paste sections. So write the essay. Online applications generally ask:

- why you have an interest in a certain field of study or industry
- what are your goals – short and long-term
- what are your financial plans – how much you and your family plan to contribute to your education
- why you are a good candidate for scholarship

Student Example Name

City Name, Montana

2019 Scholarship Essay

Starting Over

Divorced single parent of two children – that’s me! With only a high school diploma, jobs are low paying and hard to come by for a single woman who needs an employer who understands kids with the flu, teacher meetings in the middle of the day, transportation limitations, and inability to work overtime because daycare won’t understand. My home is in the small city of XXX, Montana and I need to find a good-paying job to support my kids. My goals are to become a certified medical assistant and find local employment which will allow me to meet my little family’s financial and emotional needs.

In rural communities, medical providers generally hire locals as medical assistants. Our town is no different – there’s medical-related job opportunities advertised in the local paper. According to Kristi Mainwaring, Medical Training Coordinator at Granite County Medical Center: “People with entry-level skills training have a step up on those who possess only a high school diploma.” Furthermore, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2018) shows Montana has a good job market for medical assistants with an annual average wage of \$33,170. I plan to complete online courses through Helena College, and then, enroll in the two-year Associates of Applied Science Medical Assisting program at Missoula College. My parents will help me with daycare while I take classes, but tuition, transportation, books and fees will require some financial assistance.

On my own and starting over, I know more education and training is the key to self-sufficiency. To begin my journey as a medical assistant, financial aid from the Philipsburg Area Education Foundation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to apply for a scholarship.

Student Example Name

City Name, Montana

2019 Scholarship Essay

Chasing a Dream

When the wind blows and it's below zero, my dad's concern is to get going early to feed the livestock. "Gotta take care of those animals so they can take care of us," he says, while he's putting on his wool cap with the silly ear flaps and knee-high arctic muck boots. My family has been ranching in Helmville since 1889, providing a good clean living in the great state of Montana. I want to follow in my dad's footsteps and be a good steward of my family's legacy. My goal is to become a rancher who can understand and withstand the ups-and-downs of today's cattle industry.

Some say the Montana cattle industry is dying because of over-regulation and the "fake" protein movement. I don't buy it. According to Beef2Live (January 2019), four countries are projected to export more than 1 million metric tons of beef in 2019: Brazil, India, Australia and the United States. As the 4th ranked exporter, the U.S. accounts for 15-20% of the world's beef exports. As "moral" investors push for USDA regulation of plant-based fake meat, the market for fake meat is hardly settled. Chris Bennett, Farm Journal Technology Editor, states: "Alternative meat may be a complement, but not a substitution." As meat consumption is expected to rise for a world population of 9.6 billion by 2050, there's going to be need of cattle producers for a good long time. I plan on pursuing a four-year degree in Agriculture at the University of Montana, majoring in livestock management.

In few years, the family business will fall on my shoulders – hopefully not too soon. I want to be ready with the cattle industry's best practices. Four year of college will be expensive and I'm one of four kids who will require funds for education. I would appreciate help from the Philipsburg Area Education foundation as I chase my dreams. Thank you for the consideration.