



***LATINO STUDENT
RESOURCE --***

***A GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS
AND GRANTS***

“Planning for the Future -- Latino Postgraduate Education”



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INTRODUCTION

This Resource Handbook is the result of a Capstone Project written by the first cohort of the *Engagement for the Common Good: Our Interconnected Hemisphere* courses. This ECG series was part of a four-year program, where a class of twenty students from Cabrini College studied the issues surrounding immigration and Latino education. The first year, students were introduced to the topic of immigration and the challenges facing our nation today. The second year, students studied the political, social, and economic issues concerning migrant communities in the US. A very important project of the second year was the launching of the Latino mentoring program at the Norristown High School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. During the third and fourth year, students focused on Latino education in the United States and started gathering information for the capstone project.

This Handbook is an informative resource for students, parents, and educators. It presents an extensive list of scholarships, which in many cases do not inquire about immigration status or require a valid social security number to receive an award. It is suggested that students and their parents look through the scholarship lists and select scholarships applicable for the student. The Handbook includes other resources, such as a description of the college application process, and the steps necessary to complete the required documentation. In order to facilitate access to pertinent information, each section is organized according to immigration status or place of residence of the applicant.

The Handbook is a valuable resource for those students who participate in the mentoring program and are in the process of deciding their futures after graduation. All these scholarships aim to support the dreams, hopes, and aspirations of college bound Latino students. All young people, regardless of where they were born, have the potential to succeed and thrive in a college or university. This Handbook offers students a simple guide on the appropriate steps they need to take after graduation, and what resources are available to them. The Handbook will be updated in three years by the second cohort of the *Our Interconnected Hemisphere* ECG series.

COLLEGE BOARD WEBSITE -- INSTRUCTIONS

The first thing you need to know about the College Board is that it is an organization that it can provide students, parents, colleges and universities with resources, tools and services related to college planning, admissions, financial aid, and retention. The College Board helps students connect with and successfully complete a high-quality college education. The College Board can provide you with readiness programs and exams to ensure that your student is prepared for college.

The College Board can help any student with the following:

- Finding the Right School
- Making a Plan
- Taking the Right Exams
- Studying for your Exams
- Financial Aid
- Scholarships

Registration

The first step in utilizing all that The College Board has to offer is creating a free online account. First, go to www.collegeboard.com, toward the bottom of the screen, click on the link for "Students." This link will take you to the site designed for the use of students. From here click the link that states "Sign Up" to create your free account.

You will need to enter the following information for you to create this account:

- First and Last name (middle optional)
- Gender
- Date of Birth
- A Working E-mail Address
- Date of High School Graduation
- Zip Code

You will also be prompted to create a username and password. Make sure your password is secure and that you don't forget both your username and password! You will use these each time you want to log in to the site. You will also create a security question in the event that you forget either your username or password. This page also gives you the option to subscribe to alerts and newsletters from the College Board. I would recommend the Monthly Student Newsletter, but the Official SAT Question of the Day is not necessary unless your student would like a challenge!

The following information is required for the parent:

- First and Last name
- E-mail address

After you have completed this form, you will have access to the College Board website to start your search.

SAT/Exams

The next step is to have the student meet with the school guidance counselor. It will be a good idea to have their help in setting up a date for the SAT exams. The PSAT/NMSQT is a preliminary exam that your student should take before they sit for the SAT. Some schools offer time during school hours for students to take the exam. This would be a question that could be answered by the student's guidance counselor. The options for taking standardized exams to submit scores along with college applications are: SAT and ACT.

It is up to the student to decide which exam they would like to take. Some students might take both, and some might choose another option. Most colleges will require that the applicant take at least one of these exams to be considered for admission. It is advisable for the student and parent to set up a meeting with the guidance counselor for additional assistance.

Registering for the student's SAT exam would be the next step. It can be done on the College Board website.

Searching Schools

Searching for a school is a very personal aspect of the college application process. Again, it is recommended that the student arrange a meeting with a guidance counselor to get a good idea of what type of school to attend, and also ideas for areas of study.

The College Board website will prompt you to perform a college search to add a relevant list of colleges to help you organize. This will help you plan for the application and essay deadlines and keep your search organized.

The college search through College Board will ask an extensive series of questions, narrowing down your list of potential schools to research. Our strongest recommendation is to answer as little questions as possible. Only enter information into the search that you believe is required to the type of school you like to attend. This way your search will yield more results and you can individually research each institution to see which would best fit your academic needs.

Go to the "College Search" page on collegeboard.com

Suggested required information for search:

- 2 or 4 year institution
- Location
- Financial Aid availability
- Major (only if your student has a specific area of study in mind)

Click “Save Selections”

Your selections will be saved and the search will yield a number of institutions. From there, you can click on any school on your list and the College Board will give you a brief profile on the institution.

It is a good idea at this point to make a list of first-choice schools based on other requirements that fit your needs.

Requirements/Deadlines

Researching your prospective school on their website is the best way to receive relevant information regarding application deadlines, application requirements and other aspects of the school. Extra-curricular activities and in-depth major/minor areas of study can be found on any college or university website.

Make a calendar either on your computer or on paper, and map out your deadlines so you can have a good idea of when they will be approaching.

Applications

Many colleges provide an application on their website under a tab titled something along the lines of “Prospective Undergraduate Students.” Many colleges also accept the Common Application, which is available at www.commonapp.org. You must also create a profile with a user name and password to access this site. This can be very useful while applying to different schools because you will not have to fill out the same information on different applications, the same applications and admissions essays can be used for any school that accepts the Common Application.

Schools that do not accept the Common Application will have an application and a list of requirements available online or you may call their Admissions Department for more information on applying. Applications will always have a deadline, which is available on their College Board profile. For schools with “rolling admissions” the earlier you complete and send your application, the better chance you have of being accepted to the school and receiving financial aid.

Financial Aid

The College Board website will provide you with any Financial Aid information that the school offers or wishes to display on the College Board website. You will usually receive a Financial Aid package along with your letter of acceptance to the school.

Financial aid is provided solely based on need and the FAFSA www.fafsa.ed.gov, which is to be completed by the parent/legal guardian of the student.

Scholarships

Scholarships are a great way to help assist in financing your student's education in addition to any Federal aid or financial assistance from the individual school. Under the "Pay for College" Tab there is a variety of useful information to help finance a student's education. Select Scholarships & Grants to search for scholarships available outside of your chosen college. There is additionally, a lot of information on this section of the website for different types of scholarships, how they work, and how to find them. To start your scholarship search, enter any information you deem relevant prompted by the search and click "Show Results." A list of scholarships that the student should be eligible to apply for will appear on the page. Research each institution and the requirements for the scholarship and apply based on the level of need for additional assistance.

This can be completed before or after you receive your financial aid package, depending on the amount of additional aid you might need or the deadline for the scholarship application.

COLLEGE BOARD RESOURCES -- PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This is an introduction to explore majors and careers that best suit a student. It involves a step-by-step process with interactive tools to help you get started in navigating the college planning process. This tab also assists you in figuring out how best to pay for all your future academic endeavors!

Find Colleges

<http://www.innovacollege.com>

- Explore your interests to find a college that fits
- Learn about the academic life
- Explore the campus life and all the curricular activities

Make a Plan

- Create a customized action plan for college based on grade level and situation

You Can Plan!

- Not sure if college is in your future? You are not alone!
- Many students feel the same way but with this help find great success!

Disability Guidelines

Some students taking College Board tests may have special needs. For example, students who have learning disabilities, visual impairments or other physical or medical conditions may need accommodations. Some examples of accommodations include extended time, alternate test formats and use of a computer for essays. The College Board is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations on our tests, including the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, AP Exams and the PSAT/NMSQT.

Accommodations

<http://www.educationquest.org/espanol>

❖ **Self-Advocate:**

- Make choices based on your own preferences beliefs, and abilities
- Take control and make decisions that impact the quality of you life
- Take risks and assume responsibility
- COMMUNICATE your needs with logical and positive language
- Find as many resources as you can!

Preparations

❖ **ACT/SAT**

- Request accommodations early on in the year
- Take the RIGHT and APPROPRIATE placement exams
- Ask questions

MOST WAIVERS OR SUBSTITUTIONS ARE GRANTED TO STUDENTS WHO SPEAK A FOREIGN LANGUAGE!

Scores

The SAT scoring system is different than the familiar grades received in school. It is important to be aware of the divided subjects and how they are individually recognized and then brought together to form a final score. The system is set up to calculate for each section based on the number of questions you received correct or incorrect, or that you omitted.

Equating

- ❖ Questions in the non-scored section are not factored into your SAT score

- ❖ Ensures that a student's score does not depend on how well others did on the test
- ❖ To assure fairness and accurate reflections there is a 25 min non-scored section

Brain Teasers

- ❖ Practice makes perfect
- ❖ Find out how to best prepare for the test!

Prepare the Essay

- ❖ Write and rewrite essays before the test
- ❖ Become familiar with different words and possible essay questions
- ❖ <http://www.shmoop.com/spanish-espanol/>

Repeating the test

There are many people who take the test once not knowing what to expect, no matter how prepared they feel they are. Test anxiety and the new strange environment can prevent us from getting our best scores! This is a normal thing and the good news is YOU CAN TAKE THE TEST AGAIN!

Limitations

- ❖ There is no limit on how many times the test can be taken
- ❖ Take advantage of the information you learn the first time you take it (YOU MIGHT SEE IT AGAIN!) <http://www.tuspalabrasdehoy.org/>

HOW TO WRITE AN APPLICATION ESSAY

Within the past decade there has been a push in the U.S education to raise the educational standards in writing. This is important because colleges and universities use essays to properly judge and assess the proficiency skills of prospective students. For this reason, a well-written essay is critical to the process of being accepted to the college of your choice. In this section, you will find information pertaining to the writing of a good essay. This information has been summarized from other sources and presented to you in a concise manner to facilitate this important step of your college application.

How to Write a College Application Essay

Admission Essays are used to learn more about the student as well as to find out about the reasons why the student is applying to college or university. The purpose of the admissions essay is to convey a sense of your unique character to the admissions committee. It also

demonstrates your writing skills as well as your ability to organize your thoughts coherently. It is one of the ways in which admissions officers separate you from other students. This section includes all the main points that are necessary in order to write an acceptable college application essay, as well as an outline of the process.

Starting off

First and foremost the college application essay should always be typed out on a computer unless the institution instructs you to do otherwise.

The font should always be in “a standard type font, no italics or scripts, you must number the pages and include your name and a title of the work you are doing.”(Antwerp).¹ You should also always use between a 10 or 12 size fonts with black ink color. Read the directions thoroughly until you fully understand what the application is asking of you.

Choosing a Topic

More than likely the College or University of your choice will have multiple essays prompts and you will be required to choose at least one topic to write about. If there is a word limit on the essay, be sure not to exceed that limit, as doing so could prove detrimental to the image that you are trying to portray. You should select a topic “that you can discuss with authority or passion”(Antwerp). For example, you can talk about your own personal achievements, a character or person that has impacted or inspired you, or a personal or national issue that affects you directly. Be sure to write the essay in the first person, by using the words I and we when necessary.

Writing the First Paragraph

The first paragraph in the essay is the most important paragraph because it will convey to the reader the main theme or points that you want to develop. The reader should be able to get an overall theme of the essay by reading the first paragraph. The first paragraph should include your main idea or a thesis statement.

A thesis statement is a sentence, which will convey to the reader what the essay is going to be about. The Capital Community College has come up with a clever way to think of what a thesis statement is, “Imagine the thesis statement as an umbrella, everything that you carry along the way has to fit under the umbrella. Otherwise you will have to leave some things behind or get a bigger umbrella” (CCC)².

¹ Van Antwerp, Vickie. "How to Format a College Application Essay." *Ehow.com*. Demand Media Inc. Web. 13 Nov 2012. <http://www.ehow.com/how_7768506_format-college>

² "The Thesis Statment." *The Guide to Writting and Grammar*. Capital Community COLlege. Web. 17 Nov 2012. <<http://grammar.ccc.commmnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.htm>>.

The Body of the Essay

The body of the essay should prove the main ideas or points through examples and stories. This is where you give detailed descriptions of the story or topic that you wish to write about. You want to make this essay as personal as possible and include elements that are indicative of your writing style. Summarized below are 10 different bullet points from Essayinfo.com, that give the writer a few hints on how to write the body of the paragraph;

- Tie yourself to the college: Why are you interested in attending and what can the institution do for you? Be specific. Go beyond "XYZ College will best allow me to realize my academic potential."
- Consider the unique features of the institution, e.g., a liberal arts college will be impressed with the variety of academic and personal interests you might have, while an art institute would be most interested in your creative abilities.
- Be positive, upbeat and avoid the negatives, e.g. I am applying to your school because I won't be required to take physical education or a foreign language.
- Emphasize what you have learned, e.g. provide more than a narration when recounting an experience.
- Write about something you know, something only you could write.
- Make certain you understand the question or the topic. Your essay should answer the question or speak directly to the given topic.
- Make a list to all ideas. Be creative. Brainstorm without censoring.
- Sort through ideas and prioritize. You cannot tell them everything, Be selective.
- Choose information and ideas which are not reflected in other parts of your application. This is your chance to supplement your application with information you want them to know.
- Be persuasive in showing the reader you are deserving of admission. Remember your audience.³

The Last Paragraph

The last paragraph is used to summarize the entire essay into just a couple of sentences. It restates what was said in the first paragraph as well as other points of interest throughout the body of the paragraph. But the main points must be restated in a different way, they cannot be restated word for word. It is in this paragraph that the main idea is driven into the reader's mind with a long lasting impression.

Proofreading

³ "Admission Essay." *EssayInfo.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Nov 2012. <http://essayinfo.com/essays/admission_essay.php>.

Before you turn in the essay, be sure to go over it again checking for any mistakes that you may have made while writing it the first time. Also, have an outside party look and proofread your essay so that they can give you useful advice on how to make your essay better.

Final Thoughts

The application essay is the most important piece in the application process. It can determine whether or not the student gets accepted into the college or university of his choice. It gives the admission's counselors a sense of who the student really is, and it also demonstrates his expressive abilities and general knowledge. If you still have any questions about the essay after reading this section, you should visit your school guidance counselor. They will be more than willing to help you with any concerns you may have regarding this part of the application process. If you need specific clarification regarding the requirements of the essay or any aspect of the application process, you may contact the school of your choice for further assistance

Bibliographies

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2. "The Thesis Statement." *The Guide to Writing and Grammar*. Capital Community College. Web. 17 Nov 2012. <<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.htm>>.
3. "Admission Essay." *EssayInfo.com*. N.p. n.d. Web. 17 Nov 2012. <http://essayinfo.com/essays/admission_essay.php>.

COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAYS -- REASONS WHY THEY ARE EXEMPLARY

In the following section, you will find three "ideal" college essays taken from various resourceful websites like *Sparknotes.com* and *How-to-write-college-essay.com*. They are all lengthy yet successful and well-recognized college essays, shared by prominent American Colleges and Universities. Each piece follows the prompting statement that ignited the inspiration of the writers. Following each model, there are some comments about the strengths of the essay. Lastly, a reader and writer will notice that the previously mentioned tips are evidently presented and repeated in an effective college application essay. An exemplary essay shares information about an individual, whether it is through the story of reaching success, facing a struggle or challenge, discussing life's passions or interests or simply explaining an understanding or realization. Most importantly, it is a written

expression of what it means for someone to desire and plan for a bright collegiate future. Enjoy, admire and learn from your peers!

Essay 1 -- University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2009

Describe a challenge you overcame.

The stiff black apron hung awkwardly on my hips as I casually tried to tie the strings around my waist. I had been at Gino's Restaurant for only ten minutes when Maurizio, the manager, grabbed my arm abruptly and said, "Follow me to the dungeon." Unsure of whether or not he was joking, I smiled eagerly at him, but his glare confirmed his intent. I wiped the smirk off my face and followed him through the kitchen, which was louder than Madison Square Garden during a Knicks/Pacers game. A tall woman with a thick Italian accent pushed me while barking, "Move it, kid, you're blocking traffic." I later learned she was a waitress, and waitresses did not associate with the low-level busboys. Maurizio brought me to a dangerously steep staircase that looked like it had been purposely drenched in oil to increase the chance of a fall. As he gracefully flew down each step, I clutched onto the rusty tile walls, strategically putting one foot first and then the other. Eventually, I entered the "dungeon" and was directed to a table to join two men who were vigorously folding napkins.

Pretending to know what had to be done, I took a pile of unfolded starched napkins and attempted to turn them into the Gino accordion. I slowly folded each corner, trying to leave exactly one inch on both sides, and ignored the giggles and whispers coming from across the table. When I finished my first napkin, I quickly grabbed another and tried again, hiding my pathetic initial attempt under my thigh. On my second try, I sighed with relief when I saw that what I had constructed slightly resembled an accordion shape. However, when I looked up, I saw that the other two men had each finished twenty perfect napkins. "Hurry up, little girl," they said in unison, "We have lots left." They pointed to a closet overflowing with white linens as I began to fold my third. The next couple of nights afforded me the opportunity to master such tasks as refilling toilet paper dispensers and filling breadbaskets. Just as I began to find solace in these more manageable jobs, I felt a forceful tap on my shoulder. A heavyset waiter who was sweating profusely barked, "I need one decaf cappuccino. Understand?"

"Um, okay," I stuttered, unable to get up enough courage to admit that I had never attempted to make a cappuccino. I glanced over at the intimidating espresso machine and started to pace back and forth. The waiter reappeared and with a look of irritation snapped, "If you didn't know how to do it, why didn't you say so? I don't have time for this!" Returning to the unnecessary re-cleaning of silverware, the only job I could comfortably perform, it dawned on me that my fear of showing ignorance had rendered me incompetent. I had mastered the art of avoidance and had learned nothing. I continued to

clean vigorously, making sure to keep my eyes on the silverware so that no one would ask me to make another cappuccino.

Having barely made it through my first weekend at the restaurant, I was amazed at how relieved I felt to return to the familiarity of physics class. We were starting a new chapter on fiber optics. Moving through the material with greater ease than I had anticipated, we hit upon the topic of optical time domain reflect meters, and sweat began to form on my chest as I frantically flipped through my notebook. I marked my paper with an asterisk so that I would know to ask my teacher to explain this material when I met with him privately during my next free period. My teacher then said, "So, I'm sure you all understand OTDR, so let's move on." As all of my peers nodded in agreement, I suddenly realized that I was still not asking how to make cappuccino. I took a deep breath and the fear of not learning overcame my usual fear of looking foolish and I raised my hand. After my question had been answered, I felt like the Red Sox lifting the curse. I erased the star I had made on my notebook and confidently listened as we moved on to the next topic.

I'm not suggesting that raising my hand and asking a question in physics class was a life-changing moment. It did not suddenly rid me of my fear of showing ignorance, but it definitely marked a new willingness to ask questions. When I returned to Gino's the next weekend, I continued to spend some time unnecessarily cleaning silverware, but after asking Maurizio how to use the espresso machine, I soon added making cappuccino to my list of life skills.

www.sparknotes.com/college/admissions/

General Comments

This essay seems to be rather striking as it intently pulls the reader's focus from the very start. The theme of adventure and subsequent achievement is vocalized, calling admiration from the audience as they follow along with the reading in curiosity. The manner in which the writer selects words, and the order he assigns to them, an audience cannot help but want to read more. The readers become fans and supporters of the writer. This applicant has been successful in explaining what it means, "overcoming a challenge," and has effectively supported a thesis providing supplemental proof. Additionally, the writer's personality is evident in the way the topic is analyzed and expressed in the essay.

Essay 2 -- Application for Washington University

Topic of your choice.

Psst! I have a confession to make. I have a shoe fetish. Everyone around me seems to underestimate the statement a simple pair of shoes can make. To me, though, the shoes I wear are not merely covering for the two feet on which I tread, but a reflection of who I am. So, who am I? Why don't you look down at my feet? I could be wearing my high- platform sandals—my confidence, my leadership, my I-want-to-be-tall-even- though-I'm-not shoes. My toes are free in these sandals and wiggle at will. Much like my feet in my sandals, I don't like being restricted. I have boundless energy that must not go to waste! Or maybe I'm wearing my furry pink pig slippers. I wear these on crisp winter nights when I'm home spending time with my family.

My slippers are my comforting side. I can wear them and listen to a friend cry for hours on end. My favorite pair of shoes, however, are my bright red Dr. Martens. They're my individuality, my enthusiasm, my laughter, my love of risk-taking. No one else I know has them. When I don't feel like drawing attention to my feet or, for that matter, to myself, I wear my gym shoes. These sneakers render me indistinguishable from others and thereby allow me to be independent. I wear them running, riding my bicycle alone through the trails surrounded by signs of autumn, and even when I go to a museum and stand, transfixed by a single photograph. My hiking boots typify my love of adventure and being outdoors. Broken in and molded to the shape of my foot, when wearing them I feel in touch with my surroundings.

During college I intend to add to my collection yet another closet full of colorful clodhoppers. For each aspect of my personality I discover or enhance through my college experiences, I will find a pair of shoes to reflect it. Perhaps a pair of Naot sandals for my Jewish Studies class or one black shoe and one white when learning about the Chinese culture and its belief in yin and yang. As I get to know myself and my goals grow nearer, my collection will expand.

By the time I'm through with college, I will be ready to take a big step. Ready for a change, I believe I'll need only one pair after this point. The shoes will be both fun and comfortable; I'll be able to wear them when I am at work and when I return home. A combination of every shoe in my collection, these shoes will embody each aspect of my personality in a single footstep. No longer will I have a separate pair for each quirk and quality. This one pair will say it all. It will be evidence of my self-awareness and maturity. Sure, I'll keep a few favorites for old times' sake. I'll lace up the old red shoes when I'm feeling rambunctious, when I feel that familiar, teenage surge of energy and remember the girl who wore them: a young girl with the potential to grow.

I am entering college a naïve, teenage bundle of energy, independence, and motivation. My closet full of shoes mirrors my array of interests, and at the same time my difficulty in choosing a single interest that will satisfy me for the rest of my life. I want to leave college with direction; having pinpointed a single interest to pursue that will add texture and meaning to my life.

So there you have it. I've told you about who I am, what I enjoy, and what I want from college. Want to know more? Come walk a day in my shoes.

www.how-to-write-college-essay.com

General Comments:

In the initial reading of this piece, one can excitedly relate to the writer's pleasant dynamic personality, and positive attitude. Additionally, the respect for the scribe's capability to think figuratively in relation to a more serious topic is impressive. Also, the order and flow of all parts of the writing is simple and enjoyable to follow. But, most importantly, the honesty and passion the writer expresses in her writing is thoroughly charming.

Essay 3 – Application for New York University

A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in the college community or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.

I feel sick. I'm nervous and my stomach's turning. The room is lined with neat rows of desks, each one occupied by another kid my age. We're all about to take the SATs. The proctor has instructed us to fill out section four: "race."

I cannot be placed neatly into a single racial category, although I'm sure that people walking down the street don't hesitate to label me "Caucasian." Never in my life has a stranger not been surprised when I told them I was half black.

Having light skin, eyes, and hair, but being black and white often leaves me misperceived. Do I wish that my skin were darker so that when I tell people I'm black they won't laugh at me? No, I accept and value who I am. To me, being black is more than having brown skin; it's having ancestors who were enslaved, a grandfather who managed one of the nation's oldest black newspapers, the Chicago Daily Defender, and a family who is as proud of their heritage as I am. I prove that one cannot always discern another's race by his or her appearance.

I often find myself frustrated when explaining my racial background, because I am almost always proving my "blackness" and left neglecting my Irish-American side. People have told me that "one drop of black blood determines your race," but I opt not to follow this rule. In this country a century ago, most mixed-race children were products of rape or other relationships of power imbalance, but I am not. I am a child in the twenty-first century who is a product of a loving relationship. I choose the label biracial and identify with my black and Irish sides equally. I am proud to say that my paternal great-

grandparents immigrated to this country from Ireland and that I have found their names on the wall at Ellis Island, but people are rarely interested in that. They can't get over the idea that this girl, who according to their definition looks white, is not.

Last year, at my school's "Sexual Awareness Day," a guest lecturer spoke about the stereotypical portrayal of different types of people on MTV's *The Real World*. He pointed out that the white, blond-haired girls are always depicted as completely ditsy and asked me how it felt to fit that description. I wasn't surprised that he assumed I was white, but I did correct his mistake. I told him that I thought the show's portrayal of white girls with blond hair was unfair. I went on to say that we should also be careful not to make assumptions about people based on their physical appearance. "For example," I told him, "I'm not white." It was interesting that the lecturer, whose goal was to teach students not to judge or make assumptions about people based on their sexual orientation, had himself made a racial assumption about me.

I often find myself wishing that racial labels didn't exist so that people wouldn't rely on race alone to understand a person's thoughts, actions, habits, and personality. One's race does not reveal the content of their character. When someone finds out that I am biracial, do I become a different person in his or her eyes? Am I suddenly "deeper," because I'm not just the "plain white girl" they assumed I was? Am I more complex? Can they suddenly relate to me more (or less)? No, my race alone doesn't reveal who I am. If one's race cannot be determined simply by looking at a person, then how can it be possible to look at a person and determine her inner qualities?

Through census forms, racial questionnaires on the SATs, and other devices, our society tries to draw conclusions about people based on appearance. It is a quick and easy way to categorize people without taking the time to get to know them, but it simply cannot be done.

www.how-to-write-college-essay.com

General Comments:

This essay tackles the pressing topic of diversity in society with much insight and respect. The writer is engaged in the experience of feeling diverse in America and wishes there were no racial barrier to divide people. Selecting and responding to this topic shows the strength of her character and illustrates how people's interpretation of race has affected her personally. Not only is the intelligence of the writer apparent, but one can also recognize that behind the courage to confront these issues lies the desire to change the world through personal transformation and the conviction that education holds that key.

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SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS -- PA DOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Applying for PHEAA and any other financial assistance programs can be a daunting task. The following information has been compiled to be a helpful guide through the financial aid process and help you easily decipher what programs are available, to learn what the programs are about and how to apply for assistance. These are step-by-step instructions on how to apply and how to know if one is eligible. One will also find important tips and explanations on the different key terms and important tips on completing and filing all paperwork.

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation's leading student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs.

PHEAA's earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. PHEAA continues to devote its energy, resources, and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools, and taxpayers.

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing activities nationally as American Education Services (AES) and FedLoan Servicing.

Pennsylvania State Grant Program

A Pennsylvania State Grant is based on financial need. Before you apply, check if you are eligible.

Eligibility

- Be a high school graduate as stipulated in the Pennsylvania State Grant law
- Attend a postsecondary school approved by PHEAA for Pennsylvania State Grant purposes
- Be enrolled at least half-time (defined as at least six semester credits but less than 12 semester credits per semester, or the equivalent)
- Be enrolled in an approved program of study of at least 2 academic years in length
- Be enrolled in a program of study where at least 50% of the total credit or clock hours needed for completion of the program are earned through classroom instruction
 - The program itself must be structured to allow you to complete at least 50% of your credits or clock hours in the classroom.
 - Your enrollment pattern must also consist of at least 50% classroom instruction (unless you have a medical disability).
- Make satisfactory academic progress (as defined by PHEAA)
- Not have already earned a bachelor's degree or its equivalent
- Be a Pennsylvania resident, as stipulated in the Pennsylvania State Grant law
- Be of satisfactory character (for example, not be incarcerated)
- Not have received the maximum number of Pennsylvania State Grants permitted
- Not be in default or pending default on an educational loan. This also applies to any program where the award has been converted to a loan due to failure to meet all eligibility or service requirements and the loan is in a default status.
- File and complete the application process by the appropriate deadline.

Step 1 - Fill out The FAFSA

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Complete the FAFSA as soon as you can after January 1, although individual financial aid deadlines can vary by school, state, program of study, and more.

You must complete the FAFSA to qualify for: Federal aid programs—Pell grants, Perkins loans, Stafford Loans, work-study employment Pennsylvania state aid programs—the Pennsylvania State Grant Program, work-study employment School aid programs—private grants, need-based scholarships

FAFSA: Preparation

Set Aside Time

The FAFSA can take some time to prepare for and complete. Make sure you allow enough time in your schedule to complete the FAFSA by your financial aid deadlines.

Know Your Deadlines

Submit your FAFSA as soon as you can after January 1. Deadlines can vary by school, state, program of study, and more. Even if you miss a deadline, you should still complete and submit the FAFSA. You may be eligible to receive late awards

Types of Aide

- School-based financial aid -- Deadlines varies by school
 - Undergraduate & Graduate Students
- Pennsylvania State Grant -- May 1st Deadline
 - First-time applicants who plan to enroll in a degree program or a college transferable program at a junior college or other college or university (excludes community colleges)
 - Renewal applicants who have changes that may affect their State Grant award, such as a change in marital status or a change in income
 - First-time applicants who plan to enroll in a community college; a business, trade, or technical school; a hospital school of nursing; or a 2-year program that is not transferable to another institution -- August 1st deadline
- Federal Financial Aid Undergraduate & Graduate Students – June 30th Deadline

Gather Your Documents

- Before you begin the FAFSA, gather the necessary paperwork. Having the right information on hand makes completing the FAFSA easier.
 - To complete the FAFSA, you need to provide information from several types of documents. We recommend you gather this paperwork before you begin the FAFSA to save time and to make sure you complete the FAFSA correctly.
 - First, identify what type of student—dependent or independent—you are.
 - Dependent student—You will need documentation for both you and your parents.
 - Independent student—You will need documentation for both you and your spouse (if you are married).
 - Personal Documents
- Social Security number (can be found on Social Security card), Driver's license number and state of issuance (if any)
- Alien registration number or permanent residence card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Proof of Income
- Taxable income from W-2 forms or other records of money earned or received.
- Untaxed income, including workers' compensation; child support; housing, food and other living allowances; or veterans benefits, etc.
- Use income records from the calendar year that is prior to the year you plan to attend school.
- Tax Documents

- Federal Income Tax Return (IRS tax form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) if you were required to file (Note: If you complete your FAFSA online, you have the option of automatically retrieving your income and tax data from the IRS and having it transferred into your FAFSA. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool is the preferred method to complete the FAFSA.)
- Foreign tax return or a tax return for Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Marshall Islands, or the Federated States of Micronesia or Palau
- Use estimated tax data if you will not file your tax return before your earliest financial aid deadline. After you submit your tax return, correct any income or tax information that is different from what you initially submitted on your FAFSA.
- Assets
 - Bank statements
 - Business and investment information, including business and farm records; stocks, bonds, and other investment records (as applicable)

Apply for a Personal Identification Number (PIN)

- If you intend to submit your FAFSA online, you need a Federal Student Aid PIN to sign your FAFSA electronically and check the status online. Getting a PIN is easy and takes just minutes. You need to provide only basic personal information—your name, address, phone number, and email address—to request a PIN.
- Keep your PIN in a safe place and do not share it with anyone. This number does not change. Each year that you apply for financial aid, you can use your PIN to access and electronically sign your FAFSA.

Use the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

- To make sure you have what you need when you apply/renew, use the FAFSA on the Web Worksheet. The FAFSA on the Web Worksheet includes questions in the same order, as they will appear in the online application. It's like getting the test questions before you take the test!

Helpful Tips

- Parents must also prepare. If you are a dependent student, a parent must also get a PIN and provide information on the FAFSA. Make sure you give your parents time to prepare.
- Keep your documentation. Be sure to keep all of the documentation that you gather to complete the FAFSA. You may need this later if your application is chosen for verification.

FAFSA: After You Apply/Renew

Check the Status of Your FAFSA

- If you completed the FAFSA online, you can check the status in about 1 week. If you submitted a paper FAFSA, please allow 2–3 weeks before you check the status.

Read Your SAR - Student Aid Report

- Review your SAR carefully for any mistakes. Your SAR summarizes the information on your FAFSA and identifies your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The SAR helps schools determine your financial aid eligibility. The schools that you listed on your FAFSA will receive the information you submitted and use this information to determine your eligibility for financial aid. Check your SAR for the following:
 - EFC - Look for your EFC amount near the top right corner of page 1.
 - Data errors - Review the SAR carefully. Errors in your SAR can affect your EFC and your financial aid eligibility.
 - Verification selection - If you were selected for verification, you will find the following: (1) An asterisk (*) after your EFC amount; (2) Instructions on what you need to do.
- Receiving your SAR does not mean that your FAFSA was accepted or that you are eligible for financial aid.

Review Your EFC – Expected Family Contribution

- Your EFC is determined from the information provided on your FAFSA. Schools use the EFC to determine your financial need and package your financial aid award.
- Contact your school's financial aid administrator if you have extenuating circumstances that impact your family's ability to pay for higher education, such as high medical costs or recent unemployment.
- The federal government determines your EFC using a formula that takes into consideration family size, number of family members in college, family income, and assets.
 - The lower your EFC, the more likely you will be eligible for need-based aid, such as grants and subsidized federal loans.
 - The higher your EFC, the more likely you will need to find additional sources of aid that are not based on need, such as merit scholarships, savings, unsubsidized federal loans, or private education loans.

How to Make Corrections to Your State Grant Record

- If you need to correct – Mailing address, telephone number, or email address
 - Sign in to Account Access to update your information online.

- If you need to correct – School of attendance, enrollment status, housing status, program of study.
 - Before August—the best way to notify PHEAA is to sign in to the Account Access on the PHEAA website and provide your new school information (use the "Update School Information" link on your Pennsylvania State Grant Status).
 - During August or later—Since we begin disbursing funds to schools in August, we cannot change your enrollment until we verify that you did not receive any portion of your State Grant through the school listed on your eligibility notice:
- Contact the school listed on your eligibility notice so that they can take action. PHEAA will not process your request until the school confirms the status of the funds PHEAA sent to them on your behalf.
- Sign in to [Account Access](#) and provide your new school information (use the "Update School Information" link on your Pennsylvania State Grant Status).
- The school that you plan to attend may also update enrollment information for you.
- **Important!** Account Access will not reflect your new enrollment status until PHEAA completes this process. Please do not re-submit your change in enrollment.
- **NOTE:** PHEAA cannot accept updates to change your enrollment:
 - After April 1, 2013 (for the 2013–2014 academic year)
 - After October 31, 2013 (for the 2014 summer term)
- If you need to correct - Other items, such as your or your parents' marital status, number of allowable household members enrolled in college, or income
 - Choose one of the following options:
 - Fill out the appropriate State Grant document or form.
 - Update your Student Aid Report (SAR) if it's before August 1 of the academic year.
 - Contact the Financial Aid Office at your school to make the necessary changes.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS -- PA UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Immigrants continue to play an increasing role in our American society. It is therefore essential that their children are successful at school and have access to postsecondary education. It is a known fact that many immigrant youths who come to the United States find doors wide open when it comes to attending college. But it is also true that other students, such as those from Central and South America face a lot of challenges. Some characteristics that hinder their chances for postsecondary education are their country of origin, race, parental socioeconomic status, school system, and legal barriers. Statistics

show that Hispanics have a low four-year college participation rate due to their immigration status and their lack of familiarity with the U.S. postsecondary education system. Providing adequate scholarships and grant aid is key to improving postsecondary success for children of immigrants.

The Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

The Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) is a national non-profit civil rights organization formed in 1968. MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization; SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE MISSING HERE strives to open school doors for all students equally. MALDEF is unique in that it promotes social change through advocacy, communication, education, and litigation in the areas of education, employment, immigration rights, and political access. MALDEF's mission is to award scholarships to support the high educational attainment of students. MALDEF offers scholarship up to \$5,000 dollars to select DREAM Act student activists. MALDEF seeks to support student leaders who have been advocates for the DREAM Act and other immigration rights. Students seeking to enroll in college or university for the first time are eligible to apply. Also, current college and graduate students are eligible to apply. All applicants must complete the application form, respond to the essay questions and provide a resume. For more information you must visit the website:
<http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/index.html>.

Orange County Dream Team Scholarship

The mission of the Orange County Dream Team is to support and advocate for the rights of undocumented students of all nationalities. A total of thirteen scholarships are available. Eight of those scholarships are \$500.00 to current college students who are continuing their education. The other five of the scholarships will of \$2000.00 for high school students attending college in the fall. All undocumented students are encouraged to apply regardless of gender, class, ethnicity and sexual orientation. Anyone living in the United States can apply for this scholarship. Late applications will not be accepted. The complete documentation must include the application form, the assigned essay of three components, and proof of school enrollment. For more information please visit the website:
<http://www.istillhaveadream.org/orange-county-dream-team-2012-scholarship/>.

CoffeeForLess.com "Hit the Books" Scholarship

A CoffeeforLess.com is an online coffee retailer that carries a wide variety of coffee products. This has been a business for twenty years in the Philadelphia area. To help future business leaders meet their educational goals, CoffeeForLess.com has introduced the Hit The Books Scholarship. Eligible students should be between 18 and 25 years of age, and be enrolled in an accredited college or university. This scholarship awards up to \$500 dollars to be used toward books and materials. One requirement for this scholarship is that

candidates submit an essay of no more than five hundred words on the importance of education in their lives and how this scholarship will assist their future goals. The winner will be selected based upon two criteria: successful accomplishment of essay topic and individual student needs. For more information please visit <http://www.coffeeforless.com/scholarship>.

The Patricia R. Vattuone Scholarship

The Patricia R. Vattuone Scholarship was created to recognize young people who have overcome significant struggles and achieved academic success. The parents of Patricia Rocio Vattuone created this scholarship. Patricia was born in Lima, Peru and grew up in San Francisco. On April 7, 2006 she died of cancer. She was a labor organizer with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). She was also active in movements that supported human rights in Central America and South Africa and an advocate for immigrant parents. This scholarship awards \$2,000 for each scholarship winner who exemplifies the same characteristics as Patricia. The application requires one essay asking why immigrant rights should be protected, including those of undocumented immigrants. For further information please visit <http://www.patriciarvattionescholarshipfund.org/application.html>.

Que Llueva Café Scholarship

An additional scholarship that aims to inspire students to continue their education is the Que Llueva Café Scholarship. CORE proudly sponsors this scholarship to help undocumented students continue their education past high school. This scholarship is in response to the lack of financial assistance to students who lack legal documentation. There are three areas of evaluation that CORE uses to determine their scholar recipients: 1) the students' personal story, 2) their extra-curricular involvement, and 3) their academic promise. This scholarship is only available to high school or GED graduates who will enroll for the first time in a college or university in the United States. In the past, this scholarship has awarded between fourteen to thirty scholarships. For more information please visit their website at http://www.ca-core.org/que_llueva_cafe.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS -- DOCUMENTED STUDENTS NATIONWIDE

First step before filling out these applications is to fill out FAFSA. Here is a list of scholarship for eligible students:

FastWeb Scholarships for Hispanic and Latino Students

- This guide lists more than 100 college scholarship and graduate fellowship programs for Hispanic and Latino students.
 - Hispanic and Latino students should also conduct a scholarship search using the Fastweb scholarship matching service. The FastWeb scholarship database includes additional awards that are restricted to Hispanic and Latino students, as well as more general award programs that are available to all minority students and scholarships that are unrestricted by race or heritage.
 - Biggest scholarship opportunities: The Adelante Fund Scholarship Program. The national scholarship is available to college juniors or seniors pursuing a degree in business, economics, finance, accounting, marketing, public relations or sales. Applicants must be US citizens or legal permanent residents. Applicants must have a 3.0 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA to continue receiving the scholarship.
 - The Best Buy Emerging Latino Leaders Scholarship Program. The Emerging Latino Leaders Scholarship Program is a national essay contest sponsored by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and Best Buy Children's Foundation. NCLR is the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. Two \$10,000 and three \$5,000 scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence and community service. The deadline is in early March.
 - The Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute provides educational and leadership development programs including scholarships and fellowships. The scholarships include the CHCI Scholarship and CHCI Alumni Association Dream Scholarship (for first generation college students). Fields include health, housing, international affairs, law and STEM. All recipients are selected based on community service and leadership.
- <http://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships/articles/19-scholarships-for-hispanic-and-latino-students>

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund

- The nation's largest not-for-profit organization supporting Hispanic higher education. Founded in 1975, HSF provides American families with the financial and educational resources they need to achieve a college education and help America remain globally competitive.
- Their mission is to increase the number of Hispanic college graduates by providing scholarships and assistance to students and their families. They envision a future when every Hispanic household benefits from someone in the family with a college degree, creating an enduring impact for generations to come.
- Their website is offered in both English and Spanish. The Spanish version is located here: <http://www.tuspalabrasdehoy.org/>

- The resources include information about college, the importance of higher education, preparing and paying for college, and links to the FAFSA, the Federal Pell Grant, and College Board, including information on how to navigate in Spanish.
- Their biggest scholarship is the HSF General College Scholarship, and the application is available online in Spanish. They also have scholarship opportunities for current college students, graduating high school seniors, and community college students.
- This website is one of the best tools for an Hispanic student to learn about higher education costs and ways to navigate through the world of preparing and paying for college.

<http://www.hsf.net/>

The Actuarial Scholarships for Minority Students

- Awards \$500 to \$3000 each year to up to 20-40 Hispanic and other minority undergraduate and graduate students majoring in business, actuarial science or math.

<http://www.beanactuary.org/>

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation

- This foundation has taken on a mission to inspire Hispanic students of all heritages to become extraordinary civic leaders. The organization specifically offers a number of annual Hispanic Heritage student scholarship awards.
- The website offers an alphabetized list of different scholarships and awards available for students. Students can use this as a database to search for different scholarship opportunities based on their personal qualifications.
- For 15 years, the Youth Awards have honored Latino high school seniors, in at least 10 markets, who have excelled in the classroom and community, and for their focus in various categories including Science, Engineering, Healthcare, Math, Education, Green, Technology, Business and Finance, Arts, and Fitness. The Youth Awards program is the beginning of the HHF pipeline and identifies and vets the young leaders who are funneled into the Leadership Cycle as they transition from high school, to college and grad school, and into their careers.
- The students receive grants for education or for community projects to encourage social innovation and entrepreneurship. After the regional awards, one student is selected as national recipients in each of the categories and celebrated at National Youth Awards ceremony (location varies across US) with a celebrity also receiving the Inspira award for serving as role models and filmed by MTV.

http://hispanicheritage.org/youth_int.php?sec=80

Scholarsite.com

- ScholarSite.com, with detailed and up-to-date information on approximately 600,000 financial aid opportunities, may help you find funding for your education.
- You can search for scholarships based on many different criteria, including
 - The institution offering the resource.
 - The academic discipline for which the resource is available.
 - The U.S. state in which the applicant would like to use the resource.
 - The academic level for which the resource is offered.
 - The minorities to whom the resource is offered.
 - The citizenship required to qualify for the resource.
 - The requirement that applicants have financial need or be members of the military.

College Prowler Scholarships for Hispanic and Latino Students

- This website is created by students for students. It has a list of scholarships that the user can search by criteria. A student can search by area of interest or in a minority scholarship, in this case Hispanic and Latino students.
- These scholarships range from a few hundred dollars to \$10,000 depending on the rigorous the criteria for the scholarship.

National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP)

- An opportunity for Hispanic/Latino Students
- The National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) identifies academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students.
- Each year, the NHRP honors about 5,000 of the highest-scoring students from over 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT®. These students are from the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Mariana Islands and the Marshall Islands, as well as U.S. citizens attending schools abroad.
- Although the NHRP does not provide a financial reward, being named is an important academic recognition, and this achievement should be indicated on your college applications.
- NHRP is proud to honor outstanding students and make this information available to subscribing colleges and universities that are particularly interested in communicating with academically exceptional Hispanic/Latino students.

Scholarships.com

- RTNDA Ed Bradley Broadcast Journalism Scholarship
 - A \$10,000 award established by 60 Minutes Correspondent Ed Bradley. Preference given to an undergraduate student of minority status. Career goal must be broadcast journalism. Applications must be postmarked on or before May deadline.

- MillerCoors Brewing Company
 - Be eligible for JUNIOR or SENIOR status at a college or university by Fall
 - Pursue a degree in the following: International Business, General Business, Economics, Finance, Accounting, Marketing, Public Relations, or Sales
 - Must be a US citizen or Legal Permanent Resident.
 - Have and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0 scale).
 - Maintain full-time enrollment status throughout duration of the scholarship term.
 - Provide two letters of recommendation which express leadership potential.
 - Participate in Adelante's Annual Leadership Institute and possibly participate in a paid internship.
- Stan Beck Fellowship
 - Applicants for the Stan Beck Fellowship must be graduate or undergraduate students in entomology or related disciplines at colleges or universities in the United States, Mexico, or Canada. They should also have some sort of need, either based on physical limitations or economic, minority, or environmental conditions.
- Catharine Lealtad Scholarships
 - Catharine Lealtad Scholarships are awarded to African American, Latino, and Native American students who have a strong high school record.
 - The award is \$3,000. Students who are National Achievement or National Hispanic Scholarship Finalists and who have a strong high school record will receive an annual award of \$5,000.
- Haz La U/Make the U
 - Colgate proudly announces the return of its scholarship program "Haz la U" or "Make the U". This program, launched in partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), aims to award educational grants to eligible Hispanic students pursuing higher education.
 - High school seniors are encouraged to apply for the opportunity to win a \$15,000 educational grant, or one of ten \$2,500 additional grants.
 - To be eligible, you must meet the following requirements:
 - Be of Hispanic American heritage
 - Be a U.S. Citizen or a legal permanent resident of the United States with a valid Social Security Number at the time of application. All legal permanent residents must submit a copy of their valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551
 - Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
 - Be pursuing or plan to pursue your first undergraduate degree
 - Have plans to enroll full-time in a degree seeking program at a two or four year U.S. accredited institution in the U.S., Puerto Rico or U.S. Virgin Islands during the coming academic year

- Must be a first year student at a two year college or a freshman at a four year institution in the coming academic year
- Must apply for federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

<http://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/hispanic-scholarships/>

NATIONWIDE SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS -- UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

The following is a list of scholarships that pertain to undocumented students at a national level. Therefore, students without proper documentation are eligible to apply, and these scholarships are open to all students across the United States. Many are either specifically created for undocumented students or encourage undocumented students to apply.

Que Llueva Café Scholarship

Chicano Organizing & Research in Education (CORE)
Attn: Fourth Annual Que Llueva Café Scholarship
PO Box 160144
Sacramento, CA 95816
Award Amount: \$500
Deadline: February 24, 2014

Requirements:

- Must be of Latino descent and undocumented.
- Must be enrolling for the first time in an accredited college or university in the US for 2013-2014 academic year and demonstrate financial need. Most demonstrate academic potential and promise.

www.ca-core.org

A.R.E. Scholarship

The Association of Raza Educators
PO Box 226768
Los Angeles, CA 90022
Award Amount: \$1,000
Deadline: March 2012

Requirements:

- No minimum GPA required, but will be taken into account.
- Undocumented students are encouraged to apply.

www.razaeducators.org

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund

PO BOX 7307

New York, NY 10116

Award: Up to \$10,000

Deadline: April 2012

Requirements:

- Applicants must demonstrate activism in the struggle to achieve civil rights, economic justice, international solidarity, or other progressive issues. Undocumented students are invited to apply.

www.davisputter.org

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

c/o Alliance for Young Artists and Writers

555 Broadway Avenue

New York, NY 10012

(212) 343-6493

Award: \$1,000

Deadline: December 2011 and January 2012; See website

Requirements:

- Open to students in grades 7-12, enrolled in US public schools.
- Awards are available in 10 writing categories and 16 art categories.

www.artandwriting.org/awards

WEBSITES:

Overall help to several helpful tips and links to resources. Similar to Collegeboard.com.

<http://vidayfamilia.univision.com/es-el-momento>

Tours of selected universities in Spanish.

<http://youvisit.univision.com/univision.php>

Cost of attendance calculator.

<http://www.collegeboard.org/univision/costofcollege/>

How to apply for financial aid, when to do it, what the differences between loans and grants are, tips for writing essays etc.

http://www.chci.org/doclib/201033162422441-Financial_AidandScholarshipsGuide.pdf?trail=201089173156

List of scholarships, must for documented students.
<http://www.hsf.net/innerContent.aspx?id=426>

Scholarship List

http://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/2011_2012_Scholarship_List.pdf

NATIONWIDE SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS -- DOCUMENTED STUDENTS

The following Scholarships represent a sampling of the many national level scholarships available for documented students. These scholarships all require students to be U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees with legal status, or individuals who are lawfully authorized to work full-time without restriction for any U.S. employer. Included are websites to various other national scholarships.

LULAC National Scholarship Fund

LULAC National Headquarters
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036
Award: \$250 - \$5,000
Deadline: March 31, 2014

Requirements:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.

Eligible students can apply to three different scholarship programs.

www.lnesc.org

Es el momento: Beca Univisión

Award: \$5,000
Deadline: December 15, 2013

Requirements:

- 1st generation Latino college student
- Have a history of extracurricular activity involvement
- Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA

www.eselmomento.com

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Scholarship

CHCI's scholarship opportunities are afforded to Latino students in the United States who have a history of performing public service-oriented activities in their communities and who demonstrate a desire to continue their civic engagement in the future. There is no GPA or academic major requirement. Students with excellent leadership potential are encouraged to apply.

Award: \$1,000 to pursue an associate degree, \$2,500 to pursue an undergraduate degree,

Deadline: April 16, 2014

<http://www.chci.org/scholarships/>

Requirements:

- Full-time enrollment in a United States Department of Education accredited community college, four-year university, or graduate/professional program during the period for which scholarship is requested
- Demonstrate financial need
- Consistent, active participation in public and/or community service activities
- Strong writing skills
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees with legal status, or individuals who are lawfully authorized to work full-time without restriction for any U.S. employer and who, at the time of application, possess lawful evidence of employment authorization.

NOTE: Individuals who are seeking consideration under the “*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival*” (*DACA*) policy must possess an Employment Authorization Document at the time of application.

Hispanic Heritage Fund, General Scholarship Fund

<http://www.hsf.net/innercontent.aspx?id=460>

APPLYING TO SCHOLARSHIPS

Why are scholarships important? Scholarships are the most common way that documented students pay for college.

Please be aware that many scholarships are open only to U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents and won't be available to all, but some will.

GENERAL ADVICE ON SCHOLARSHIPS

Make sure to research and apply to scholarships EARLY- ideally starting in the spring of junior year of high school. Many scholarships are exclusively available to high school seniors and not for college students, so make sure to start building a college fund with these high school-specific scholarships. Note: If you have good grades in high school, you should take advantage of them and apply to scholarships that are focused on academics. In general, when going on to college, even stellar students' GPA drops dramatically, which affects their level of competitiveness.

Apply to every single scholarship you can. Scholarships are very competitive, especially ones that award large amounts of money. Focus on throwing your net wide and applying to as many scholarships as you can. Plus, once you have created a solid personal statement and gathered all the documents that scholarship applications require, you will be able to use the same materials over and over.

Put A LOT of time and energy into scholarship applications. Revise your personal statement multiple times, get feedback about your essays from multiple people, gather transcripts, income statements, etc. The more effort you put in, the better your scholarship packet will be and the higher the likelihood of winning the award.

Research the particular organization offering the scholarship to understand what they are looking for in applicants. If you clearly articulate why you're a good fit for a particular organization, you help the selection committee in choosing you as the right candidate. Make sure to use concrete examples when you write about your strengths, but never write in an arrogant manner. Don't act like you know what's best for the scholarship organization.

Be very explicit in talking about your story. The personal statement is what will set you apart from all other applicants.

Answer questions clearly and directly. Type and proofread essays. Spelling mistakes and bad grammar turn readers off. Express yourself clearly and concisely. Adhere to the word and page limits. Have at least two people look over your personal statements. More than three people will give you too many opinions to juggle. If English is not your first language, ask for your English teacher's help.

State your financial needs – Don't be shy about it. Even scholarships that are no need-based should know your financial needs. If you are high-need and high-merit, you have been able to persevere despite numerous challenges and should highlight this in your

essay. Here's how you might talk about your situation: Are you expecting family assistance to pay for college? What would happen if you did not get this scholarship? How would your financial limitations impact your academics and/or your chance to finish your education? Caution: there is a fine line between begging and showing that you are worth funding. Do not cross the begging line. It does not make you look good to the scholarship committee; it makes you look like you are risk not worth taking and that you don't have a solid plan for achieving your academic goals.

It's all about the package. As soon as you're about to finish the scholarship application, read over all the application materials to see if they reflect who you are as a whole. Materials should complement one another. Do a final checklist to ensure that you have enclosed all necessary documents needed. Make sure your scholarship application is signed.

BEFORE MAILING: Do a Final Check!

1. Is your application filled out completely?
1. Have you signed your application?
2. Do you have all required documents, including
3. Transcripts and proof of income?
4. Have you proofread and edited your essays?
5. Did you follow the essay guidelines?
6. Re-read the whole package
7. Send it in before deadline - WAY BEFORE THE DEADLINE

IF YOU ARE AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP...

Send a thank-you note to all your recommenders. Follow up regularly with donors. All this information was found in the 2012-2013 Scholarship List and Guide for Bay Areas Immigrant Students. The website to this resource is http://www.e4fc.org/images/E4FC_Scholarships.pdf.

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