

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Tips and Tricks

WHAT ARE SCHOLARSHIPS?

- Free Money!
- The Different Types:
 - Student specific
 - Need based
 - Merit based
 - Career/major specific

TIP #1: APPLY TO AS MANY SCHOLARSHIPS AS POSSIBLE!

- Remember, searching for scholarships is a numbers game
 - The more awards you apply for, the more awards you can get!!
- Set your expectations by the rule of 10
 - 100 opportunities you find
 - 10 scholarships you qualify for and apply to
 - 1 scholarship award you win
- Be persistent!! Apply, apply, apply!
It is the only way to win



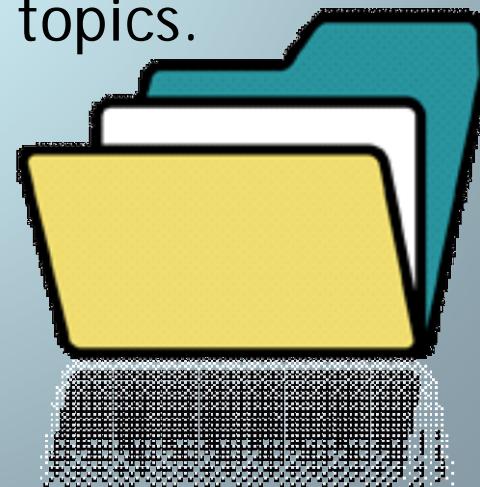
TIP #2: DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE AWARD, JUST APPLY!

- Every scholarship you are eligible for is worth applying to.
 - If you are awarded 10 scholarships for \$1,000 or one scholarship for \$10,000, You still receive \$10,000 in scholarships.
- Smaller scholarships tend to have fewer competitors than larger ones.



TIP #3: CREATE A PORTFOLIO

- Most scholarships ask for the same information.
- Save time by:
 - Having a standard biographical profile of yourself.
 - Having essays ready with word lengths of 250 words, 500 words, 750 words, and 1,000 words on all different common scholarship topics.



EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Explain the importance of (your major) in today's society.
- Describe your most meaningful achievements and how they relate to your field of study and your future goals.

TIP #4: ATTENTION TO DETAIL

- Attention to detail is extremely important for scholarship applications.
- Some common mistakes:
 - Missing deadlines
 - Incorrect/Omitted information
 - Leaving out information
 - Not following directions for essay length requirements
 - Have someone proofread your essay such as
 - Instructor
 - Counselor
 - Tutor
 - Family/Friends

TIP #5: LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ALL YEAR LONG

- Since scholarship deadlines vary
- Consider scholarship hunting to be a full-time job
- Use all resources - online searches as well as local organizations such as churches, banks, unions, etc.



TIP #6: THERE ARE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EVERYTHING!!

- There are millions of scholarships available for you!
 - Left - handed students
 - Duct Tape “Stuck to Prom”
 - Culturally based scholarships
 - University specific scholarships
 - Hobby related scholarships
 - Career-specific



TIP #7: IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY (OR TOO LATE) TO FIND A SCHOLARSHIP

- There are scholarships for students who are almost done with school and for students who have finished school and need to pay off their loans.
 - The moral? Never stop looking for scholarships!
 - Find one that is passed the deadline? Save a copy of it and apply when it is due again next year so long as you will still be eligible.



TIP #8: BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!

- You should **never**, ever, pay to search or apply for scholarships.
- Do not give out a lot of personal information (social security numbers, bank account numbers, and other finance information).
 - However, FAFSA will require some of this information from you.
- Do not trust award letters for scholarships you never applied to.



TIP #9: GET ORGANIZED

- Organization helps you apply to more scholarships
 - Use a calendar with reminders for deadlines
 - Save all of your applications and essays to re-use or use as a reference for future scholarship applications
 - Know how much money you need in scholarships
 - Make sure you keep your contact information updated
 - Stop by the Transfer and Career Center for assistance in creating your personal scholarship search binder



TIP #10: DON'T LET YOUR FACEBOOK ACCOUNT HOLD YOU BACK

- Maintain a professional social media presence.
 - No inappropriate photos or comments
 - Block your account
 - Consider creating a very professional Linked In account



TIPS AT A GLANCE:

- Tip #1: Apply to as many scholarships as possible!!!
- Tip #2: Don't worry about the size of the award, just apply!!
- Tip #3: Create a portfolio
- Tip #4: Attention to detail
- Tip #5: Look for scholarships all year long
- Tip #6: There are scholarships for everything!!
- Tip #7: It's never too early (or too late) to find a scholarship
- Tip #8: Beware of scammers!!!
- TIP #9: Get organized
- Tip #10: Don't let social media hold you back



HOW TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Use the resources in the Transfer & Career Center:
 - Books
 - Web links Transfer Center Website under "Scholarships/Financial Aid"
 - Binders with scholarship information
 - Assistance in using all those resources
- Check your intended transfer institution's Scholarships



HOW TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

- When looking at career or major based scholarships, search with an open mind - many majors are interrelated
- Check out professional organizations for your intended major or career for more opportunities
- Find out if family members are a part of a union, were in the military, or fit other specific criteria - you may be eligible for more scholarships

Member Affiliations

Layer
Law School
Criminal Justice

Many majors are
interrelated

Legal studies

Business

Political Science

English

Psychology

Philosophy

Peace &
conflicts/Humanities

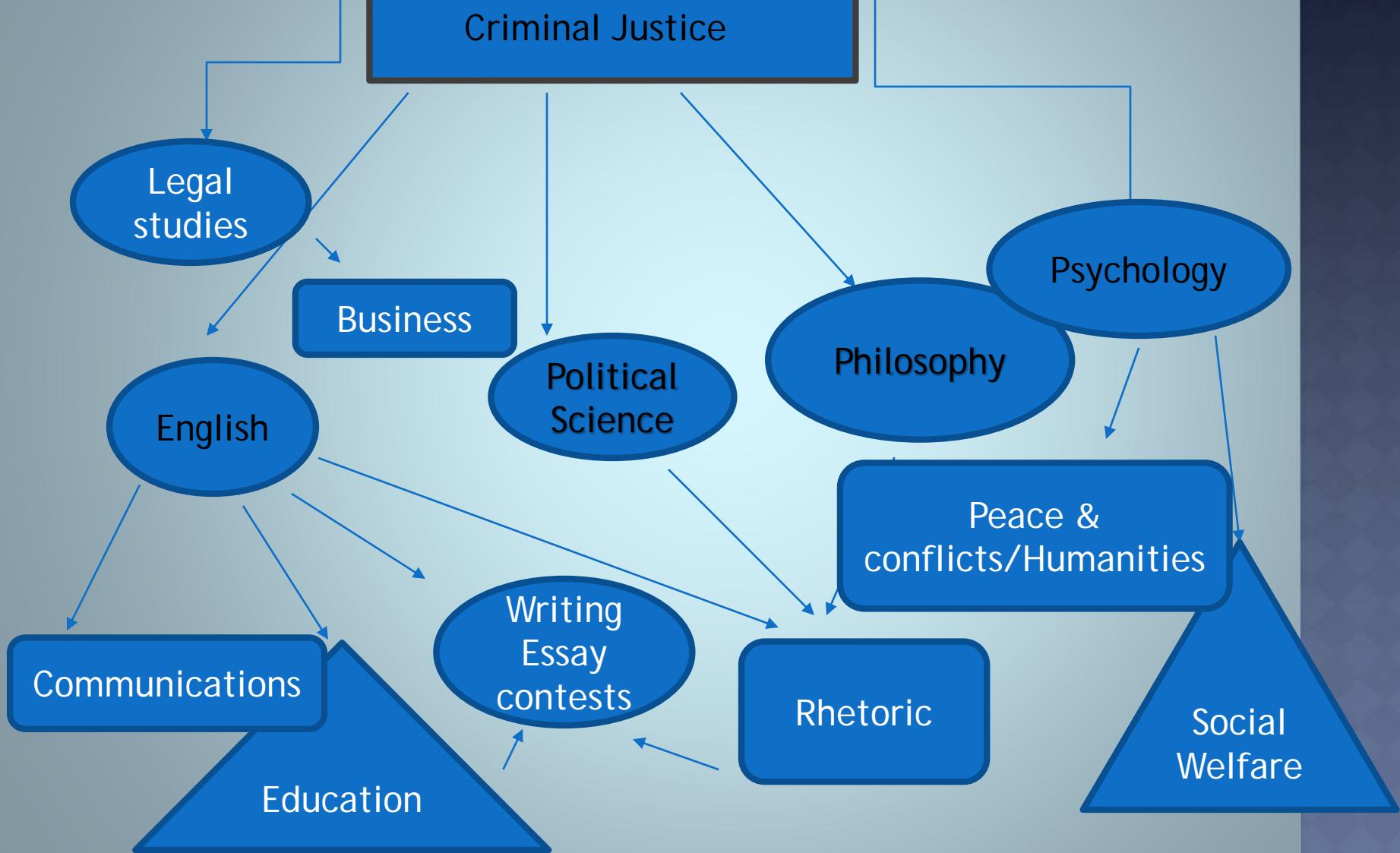
Rhetoric

Communications

Writing
Essay
contests

Social
Welfare

Education

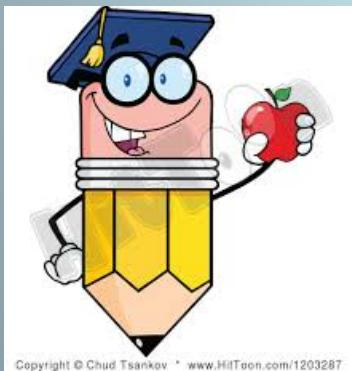


HOW TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS ONLINE

- Websites like [fastweb](#), [bigfuture](#), and [Peterson's](#) are popular websites. A list of websites is available on the [Transfer and Career Center website](#).
- Scholarship search websites are free, but they make their money through advertising
- You have to be good at knowing the difference between a scholarship and an advertisement
- They will send you LOTS of emails, many of which are spam or advertisements
 - It's a good idea to create a second email address, just for your online scholarship search.
- You will have to create a profile, but even with your profile, you will be matched to scholarships that are not a good fit for you. You will have to review each scholarship to know if you are eligible.

HOW TO WRITE WINNING ESSAYS

- 1. Show, Don't Tell
- 2. Keep Things Personal
- 3. Use Effective Organization
- 4. Make each sentence count
- 5. Make your essay unique and memorable



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HOW TO WRITE SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Responses to short answer question are typically 150 words or less

Brief and direct - make your case in very few words by showing rather telling, focus on personal detail

Don't- Overload your response with too many major points

Prioritize- your potential points, stick to one or two of the most important

Develop - your points effectively

Back it up - prove your points with a few examples

End - with a touching thought that supports your main point

NEED HELP WRITING YOUR SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY?

- All writing resources at COM can help you perfect your scholarship essays
- English Writing Center
 - KTD: LC 120 No appointments necessary! Open Monday through Friday
 - IVC: Career Study Center Bldg 17 Room 100 Open Wednesday through Friday
- Online Writing Center - sign up through your Moodle account and submit your papers online for editing and proofreading

SELF ENROLL IN THE OWC

- Find it in your Moodle page
- You can contact COM's OWC Coordinator Alisa Klinger for assistance: aklinger@marin.edu

COLLEGE OF MARIN

Distance Education

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NAVIGATION

- Home
 - My home
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 - My courses

TUTORING

For expert help with writing for any class, self-register for the Online Writing Center (OWC) [beginning January 19, 2016](#).

For free peer tutoring in subjects besides writing, please visit the

Back to MyCOM

The Spring 2016 Class Schedule is now available online! Are you planning on registering for a Distance Education course? Before you complete your registration, review the [Course Welcome Letter](#) for each course you are interested in to ensure you are prepared to meet the course requirements.



IMPORTANT:

Closing this browser does not end your session. In order to end a session you must click on **Logout** (top right side of browser window). **If you do not log out, your session will remain active.** The next person to use this computer will have full access to your account.

CALENDAR

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

5 WRITING REMINDERS:

- Tailor each essay to the needs of each particular prompt.
- Respect those word- and page-length limits.
- Plan and draft early--no last minute rushing! Allow yourself at least 2-3 drafts before the essay becomes "ready to send."
- Don't forget those thank-you letters!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit College of Marin's Transfer and Career Center



- And never stop with your scholarship search!