



CHID Scholarship Writing Workshop

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Available Scholarships and Eligibility

Eligibility Note:

Due to the limited availability of funds, students are eligible to receive one general award and one study abroad/away scholarship or award per academic year.

How to Submit

- Submit everything in a **single PDF** to Cynthia Anderson, CHID Academic Counselor, by email at **chid@uw.edu**
- See <https://chid.washington.edu/chid-scholarships> for details on individual scholarships

Personal Statement

What is a personal statement?

A short, autobiographical account of your fit and goals for the scholarship. This statement differs from the one you submitted to be accepted into college. It should be tailored to every individual scholarship opportunity.

Personal Statement

What does a personal statement do?

- Showcases who you are and why you are deserving of an award
- Supplements the other materials in your application (it says what can't be said elsewhere)
- Demonstrates how you will fulfill the goals of the scholarship
- Showcases your priorities

Personal Statement

How do I **prepare to write** a personal statement?

- Read prompts carefully, highlight core themes/questions
- Brainstorm & free write
- Outline
- Respond to all questions

Personal Statement

How do I **organize** a personal statement?

- State “thesis”/overall point at top
- Paragraphs:
anecdote/question/problem → stakes → connection to scholarship

Personal Statement

How do I **write** a personal statement?

- Focus on yourself (not others)
- Tell a story from your own life (with details!)
- Keep it genuine/use your own voice
- Use active voice
- Move quickly
- Remember your audience
- Respect word/page limits

Personal Statement

What should I **avoid** in a personal statement?

- Cliches & humor (unless you're writing for the Colin Wang award)
- Abstraction and generalization
- Sounding savvy
- Lists
- Including everything from your life

Personal Statement

How do I **revise** a personal statement?

- Read and reread with time in between
- Edit, edit, edit!
- Get as much feedback as possible

Personal Statement

What do scholarship committees usually look for?

- Fit
- Merit and/or need
- Potential to fulfill scholarship goals

Personal Statement

Examples (good and bad)

Introduction 1

The day was May 28, 2014. My doctor told my parents that I would need Spinal Fusion Surgery with rods and screws, and it had to happen quickly. Before surgery, the doctor suggested strength training for the muscles in my back so that I'd recover faster. I immediately went to the local gym and began working with a personal trainer, Justin. I learned so much from him including how the body works and how surgery takes time to heal. After surgery, I knew that I wanted to use my experience to help others, just like Justin helped me.

Introduction 2

Unlike other teenagers, I'm not concerned about money, or partying, or what others think of me. Unlike other eighteen-year-olds, I think about my future and haven't become totally materialistic and acquisitive. My whole outlook on life changed after I realized that my life was just being handed to me on a silver spoon, and yet there were those in the world who didn't have enough food to eat or place to live. I realized that the one thing that this world needed more than anything was compassion; compassion for those less fortunate than us.

Personal Statement

Additional resources and examples:

- The College Application: [“How to Write a Killer Scholarship Personal Statement: Definitive Guide With Examples”](#)
- Pomona College: [“Writing a Personal Statement for Scholarship and Fellowships”](#)
- Grinnell College: [“Writing Personal Statements for Scholarship Applications”](#)

Project Description

What is a project description?

A concise and detailed account of your research project that addresses three main things: what you're doing, how you're doing it, and why it's important.

Project Description

What does a project description do?

- Demonstrates feasibility of project
- Showcases value of project
- Demonstrates need for/worthiness of monetary investment

Project Description

What should a project description include? (depending on application, some or all of below)

- **Summary of project** (what is your project and what are its contributions? i.e. “elevator pitch”)
- **Background** (what other work has been done in your research area? What are the gaps in this other work?)
- **Stakes** (how does your research fill in these gaps? Why is your research important overall?)
- **Frameworks and methods** (how are you studying what you’re studying?)
- **Goals and outcomes** (what does your project aim to achieve? What new knowledge will your project produce?)
- **Timeline** (what parts of the project will you complete during the scholarship award period?)
- **Faculty Mentor** (who will supervise your project and why is this person the best supervisor for your project?)
- **Budget** (how will you spend the scholarship money?)

Project Description

DOs

- Set achievable goals
- Include concrete detail
- Speak for a non-specialist audience
- Focus on your project rather than yourself

DON'Ts

- Propose too much for timeframe
- Speak in generalizations
- Use jargon
- Focus on your “passion” or “dreams”

Project Description

What do scholarship committees usually look for?

- Detailed/concrete research plans
- Merits of project
- Funding need
- Likelihood of project completion

Project Description

Additional resources:

- Montana State University: “[Guidelines for Writing Project Proposals](#)”
- Carleton College: “[How to Write Effective Proposals](#)”
- Pomona College: “[Writing a Project Proposal](#)”

Limerick & Accompanying Paragraph

What is a limerick?

A short, often humorous, **poem** of five lines arranged in one stanza.

Limerick & Accompanying Paragraph

What is a limerick?

Limerick Example	Rhyme	Meter (Anapestic)	Feet
There was an old man of Nantucket	A	da DUM da da DUM da da DUM	3
Who kept all his cash in a bucket;	A	da DUM da da DUM da da DUM	3
But his daughter, named Nan,	B	da da DUM da da DUM	2
Ran away with a man,	B	da da DUM da da DUM	2
And as for the bucket, Nantucket.	A	da DUM da da DUM da da DUM	3
— <i>Anonymous</i>			

Limerick & Accompanying Paragraph

How do I write a limerick?

- Tell a story (first line often ends with proper noun)
- Keep it focused
- Give it a humorous twist (often at end)
- Make it meaningful/relevant to scholarship

Limerick & Accompanying Paragraph

How do I write the accompanying paragraph?

- Explain relevance of limerick to travel plans
- Keep it short (100-250 words)
- Keep it focused and concrete
- Emphasize stakes of your travel plans

Limerick & Accompanying Paragraph

What does the scholarship committee look for?

- Quality of limerick (clarity, cleverness, humor)
- Stakes of rationale for travel

Limerick and Accompanying Paragraph

Additional resources:

- Kenn Nesbitt's Poetry4kids, "[How to Write a Limerick](#)"
- MasterClass: "[How to Write a Limerick](#)"
- WikiHow: "[How to Write a Limerick](#)"

Scholarship Specific Questions

Sometimes you'll need to answer questions that are specific to an individual scholarship application. What to do when answering these types of questions:

- Summarize your answer to the question(s) in 1-2 sentences in your opening
- Answer all parts of the question(s)
- Use concrete examples from your own life and research

General Tips and Tricks

- Start early, give yourself plenty of time, and take breaks
- Read the application instructions carefully
- Include detail and be specific!
- Remember less is more
- Ask questions/inquire!!! (talk to Cynthia Anderson, your professors, or me!)
- Get feedback from writing centers, friends, and faculty
- **Breathe! Writing applications can be overwhelming but you can do this!!!**

