

# LCC Scholarship Essay Question Tips

LCC Scholarships are awarded using a pool-and-match approach. One general application uses applicant responses to match the criteria of each scholarship opportunity.

## Tips

- Who? what? why? when? where? how?
- Remember personal essays are about you and your experiences
- Use spell/grammar check
- Answer all parts of the questions
- Ask questions or have someone critique it
- Check the Rubric

## Personal Essay Questions

1. What is your field of study and how will it contribute to your immediate or future career plans? Please share the importance of your major in today's society, important issues your field is facing and how you see yourself contributing to your field.

**Rubric:** (10 Possible Response Points)

- 1-2 points — Answer does not sufficiently answer the question prompt.
  - 3-4 points — Answer provides some insight, but lacks a clearly defined plan or path.
  - 5-6 points — Answer adequately demonstrates student's educational intent and the importance of their field of study.
  - 7-8 points — Student response includes complete and thoughtful response including some detail and description of their plans.
  - 9-10 points — Answer is complete and clearly articulated to include current and future plans and all other elements of the question. Exceptional and well-organized content.
2. Reflect on a significant accomplishment, event, or realization that led to a period of personal growth and a deeper understanding of yourself or others, particularly in the context of challenges or setbacks you have faced. Provide a clear example of your specific accomplishment, event, challenge or setback, how it affected you, and the lessons you learned from that experience. Include how these insights can be

applied to your educational journey and future career, highlighting any fundamental lessons learned that can support your future success. This could also include a sport, volunteer work or activity you were involved in.

**Rubric:** 10 Possible Response Points

- 1-2 points — Does not provide a clear example of a significant accomplishment, event, challenge or setback. Lacks reflection on personal growth or lessons learned.
  - 3-4 points — Mentions an experience and impact but lacks detail or depth. Minimal explanation personal growth, lessons learned, or application to future education and career.
  - 5-6 points — Provides an example of an accomplishment, event, or challenge with some context. Includes impact and a basic discussion of lessons learned and personal growth. Some connection to future education and career is made, but it is not well developed.
  - 7-8 points — Clearly describes a significant experience with detailed context. Thoughtfully explains personal growth and lessons learned. Provides a strong connection between the experience and future education or career success.
  - 9-10 points — Offers a compelling, well-organized, and detailed account of an experience. Clearly articulates personal growth, deep insights, and meaningful lessons learned. Effectively connects the experience to their educational path and future career, demonstrating a strong understanding of its impact on their success.
3. How do you contribute to the improvement of your community through work, school, home, volunteer or other activities?

**Rubric:** 10 Possible Response Points

- 1-2 points — Applicant does not mention any contributions towards the improvement of the Lower Columbia Community.
- 3-4 points — Applicant provides some insight to their contributions as a volunteer, employee, student or family member.
- 5-6 points — Applicant sufficiently provides examples and context of their community contributions.
- 7-8 points — Applicant demonstrates clear contributions and intentions for how their work seeks to improve the community.

- 9-10 points — Provides specific examples as a volunteer, through work, school, home or community service activities and provides clear context for how their activities positively impact the Lower Columbia Community.

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