



Tips for Writing a Great Scholarship Essay

- **Avoid Clichés.** Your readers have heard “chance of a lifetime,” and “life-changing experience” way too often. Say *why* you think this will be a great experience without making a generalization.
- **Answer all questions fully and completely.** All sections of the essay are essential for the application process. Essays that do not fully answer the questions will not be considered.
- **Do not tell the Spencer Center what they already know.** The reviewers of this application already know what the course will be covering, so do not repeat the course description.
- **Have a balance between academic and personal in your essay.** Illustrate why you as an individual should go on the trip. Use elements from your academic major and your personal motivations. Remember this is NOT a vacation but a chance to experience a new culture and learn about yourself.
- **Be aware of the structure of your essay. Make sure your essay is well written.** Make sure there are proper transitions and complete clauses. You can include an introduction and conclusion, but remember that this is a personal essay, not a research paper.
- **Avoid repetition.** Avoid saying the same thing over and over in your essay.
- **Proofread.** Make sure you reread your essay. Essays with grammatical mistakes and spelling errors will have less of a chance against well proofread pieces.
- **GO TO THE WRITING CENTER.** It always helps to have a second set of eyes to look at your paper. Questions? Email WritingCenter@mbc.edu or stop by Academic 408 during walk-in-hours.
- **Make sure you write 500+ words and no more than 750 words per essay.** Your readers need enough material to adequately evaluate your essay.
- **Make sure your essay looks professional.** Don’t use an unusual or difficult to read font. Times New Roman 12-point font is always a safe bet. Double space your essay and use a black font. Be consistent with margins and indentations.

**These tips were generously developed by Dr. Lydia Petersson’s Professional Writing Class*