

## PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TIPS

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### **TIP #1: THIS IS A NUMBERS GAME!**

Set your expectations by the rule of 10 – for every scholarship you are awarded, you have to apply for 10. For every scholarship you qualify and apply for, you'll need to research 10 opportunities.

- 100 opportunities you find
- 10 scholarships you qualify for and apply to
- 1 scholarship award you win

### **TIP #2: SMALL IS THE NEW BIG**

If you are awarded 10 scholarships for \$1,000 or one scholarship for \$10,000, the net effect is the same - you don't pay that \$10,000 out of pocket or in loans.

More importantly, smaller scholarships tend to have fewer competitors than larger ones!

### **TIP #3: SAVE TIME WITH A PORTFOLIO**

Rather than re-invent the wheel each time, develop a portfolio of materials that you can draw on, time and time again.

Have a standard biographical profile of yourself, plus answers to common questions in typical lengths for essay style questions of 250 words, 500 words, 750 words, and 1,000 words.

#### *Some Typical Scholarship Questions*

- Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
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#### **TIP #4: THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS**

Some common mistakes:

- Missing deadlines
- Incorrect information in applications
- Omitted information
- Not following directions for essay length

#### **TIP #5: SEARCH YEAR ROUND**

Since scholarship deadlines are scattered throughout the year, scholarship searches should also be performed throughout the year.

#### **TIP #6: IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY OR TOO LATE TO SEARCH!**

Start today!

[fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)

[goingmerry.com](http://goingmerry.com)

[bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search)

[niche.com](http://niche.com)

[scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)