

Tips for Scholarship Essays and Interviews

Prepared with input from a Carolina alumna who has been involved in application review and the final selection round of the Morehead-Cain Scholarship.

* You must show that you have passion and talent for and commitment to the principles the scholarship was created to promote and that you will use the resources of the scholarship's organization and endowment to further those principles. *

Most Important

- Research the criteria for choosing recipients and write an essay that explains why you fit those. Describe related activities, beliefs, skills, desires, and abilities. However, do not brag about your accomplishments.
- In the interview, you may be asked multiple, in-depth questions about anything in your application or essay. Prepare ahead of time to have a thorough, detailed discussion of your involvement in and commitment to absolutely everything you included.
- Write an essay specifically for the scholarship and answer the prompt. Reviewers can recognize essays originally written for college admissions. If you are not willing to write a new essay for the scholarship, you do not deserve it.

Content

1. The Principles of the Scholarship – show that you:
 - know why the scholarship endowment was established
 - have a plan to use the school's and the scholarship's resources to fulfill those principles
 - are passionate about them
 - have pursued them in high school
 - are committed to them in college and beyond
2. Your Related Activities – give examples that highlight your:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ self-motivation ◦ initiative ◦ leadership ◦ focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ability to learn from failure and try a new approach ◦ persistence ◦ stamina |
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3. Your Intellect – demonstrate that you:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ can think deeply about a serious issue ◦ can form an independent opinion ◦ can see both sides of an argument | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ understand “why” and not just “what” ◦ have a love of learning |
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4. Your Future – discuss:
 - how you plan to use your college education
 - your passion for a particular area of service or potential career
 - your desire to make the world a better place in college and beyond