

College Writing Research Paper

As a senior, you researched many colleges and narrowed your choices to schools that met your needs financially and academically. It is evident that the cost of the college has dramatically increased. The main question facing most families is how the cost of college will be met. Financial aid and loans are typically used to subsidize the cost. What choices do families have if they do not qualify for financial aid? What choices do families have if they don't want to pay using loans? Scholarships are another way to help defray the cost, yet many families do not explore this option.

Objective: Write a five-seven page research paper overviewing the college scholarship process. Your overarching question is: What choices do families have if they don't qualify for loans and other types of aid available?

Please organize the paper according to the following instructions.

Part One: This section of the paper should include **the introduction of the topic** and briefly describe the types of scholarships you will be discussing. Give an overview on the increase of tuition and explain how families are paying for college and the debt they incur. A **thesis statement** should be evident. **This paragraph should be a minimum of ten sentences.**

Part Two: This section of the paper should discuss the **process for researching scholarships**. There are millions of dollars offered to students through a variety of scholarships. Why are these resources not explored? What are the **myths and facts surrounding college scholarships**? What is the best way to find scholarship money? Part two should be written in a **multi-paragraph format**.

Part Three: This section of the paper should provide information on **need based scholarships**. Explain the term *need based* and the qualifications for receiving this type of scholarship. Explain FAFSA and how need based money is derived from a family's income. Please **research a specific college on your list** and explain the qualifications for need based aid. Who qualifies? How much money is awarded? What are the guidelines? Do students have to apply each year? Part three should be written in a **multi-paragraph format**.

Part Four: This part of the paper will describe **merit based scholarships**. Explain the term merit based and who qualifies for merit based money. **Examine a college you have applied to** and discuss the requirements for receiving merit based money. Are there other types of academic scholarships offered? Part four should be written in a **multi-paragraph format**.

Part Five: This section should discuss **athletic scholarships**. Explain the process for applying and receiving an athletic scholarships at both a division one school and a division three school. Discuss how athletes are chosen and the packages colleges and universities offer. What are the stipulations? Are college athletes given special treatment? What are the pros and cons for playing sports in college? Part five should be written in a **multi-paragraph format**.

Part Six: This part of the paper will provide examples of **unique, private, and community scholarships**. Who can apply? What are the requirements? What is the monetary award? Who can apply? What are the requirements? What is the monetary gift? **Give an overview of a scholarship that applies to you as an individual.** Part six should be written in a **multi-paragraph format**. **Five points extra credit will be given if the student shows PROOF of applying for the scholarship.**

Part Seven: For the **conclusion**, summarize the main points of your research and draw a conclusion on the importance that college scholarships are essential in making college more affordable to families. **This paragraph should be a minimum of ten sentences.**
Requirements:

Length of paper: minimum of five pages and maximum of seven pages

Minimum of six sources (sources must be credible and high quality – see suggestions on Edline)

Minimum of six direct and/or indirect quotations (paraphrases, statistics, etc.)

MLA Works Cited Page

Papers must be typed using Times New Roman, double spacing and size 12 font.

Proper MLA format must be evident throughout the paper, including citations.

Notes for the research paper may be completed on note cards, in a notebook, or electronically.

Specific due dates will be given for review of notes and research process.

A grading rubric will be made available. Papers will be evaluated for content and mechanics.

Due Dates: Part One and Two: rough draft due on November 19, 2015
Part Three and Four: rough draft due on November 24, 2015
Part Five and Six: rough draft due on December 3, 2015
Part Seven will be checked on December 5, 2015

Due Date: Final paper is due on December 14, 2015-- Late research papers will not be accepted.

Papers must be submitted in two forms: hard copy and electronic copy to Turnitin.com. Ten points will be deducted from papers not submitted to Turnitin.com.