

Components of a Successful Scholarship Essay

Introduction

An anecdote about an experience that was difficult, unexpected, interesting, or funny

My Family

Describes your family background

Transforming my Obstacle into Strength

A challenge you had to overcome; what positive qualities did you develop as a result? Should be related to introductory anecdote

Supporting Others/Service

Ways you use your positive qualities to benefit your family or community

My Dream for the Future

What your goals are and how your positive qualities will get you there

Conclusion

Sums up the main point you're making about yourself

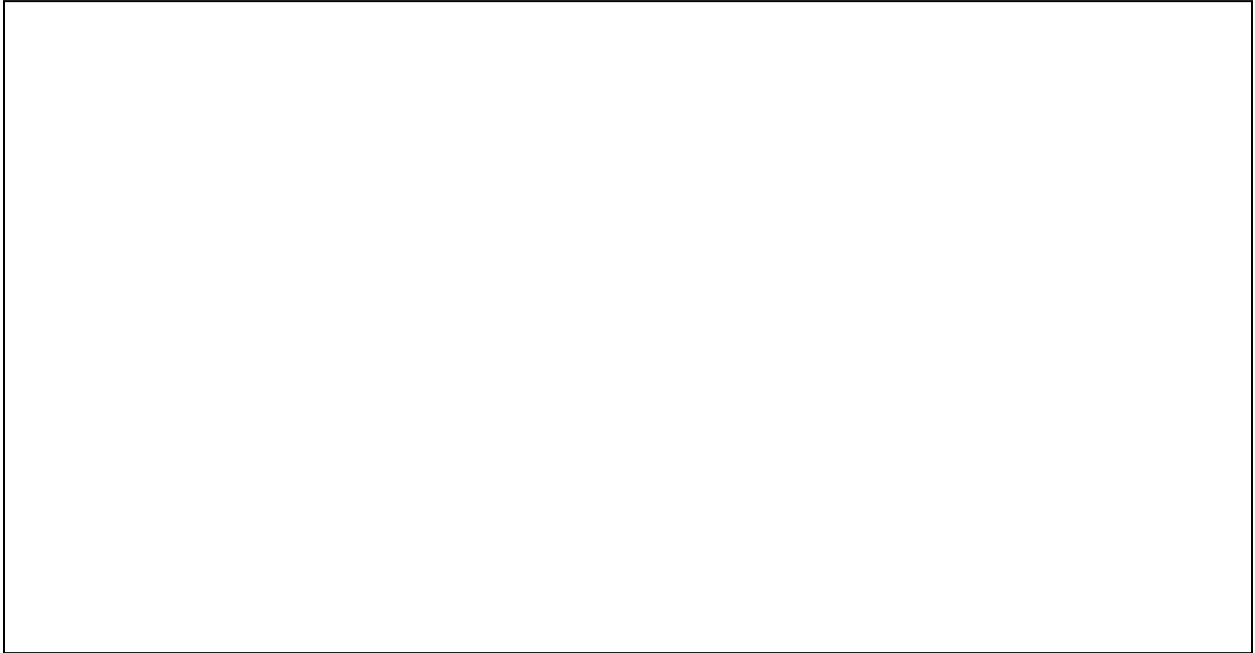
MY FAMILY

Describe your family. Include lots of details: country of origin, number of brothers and sisters, parents' educational background, parents' work, etc.

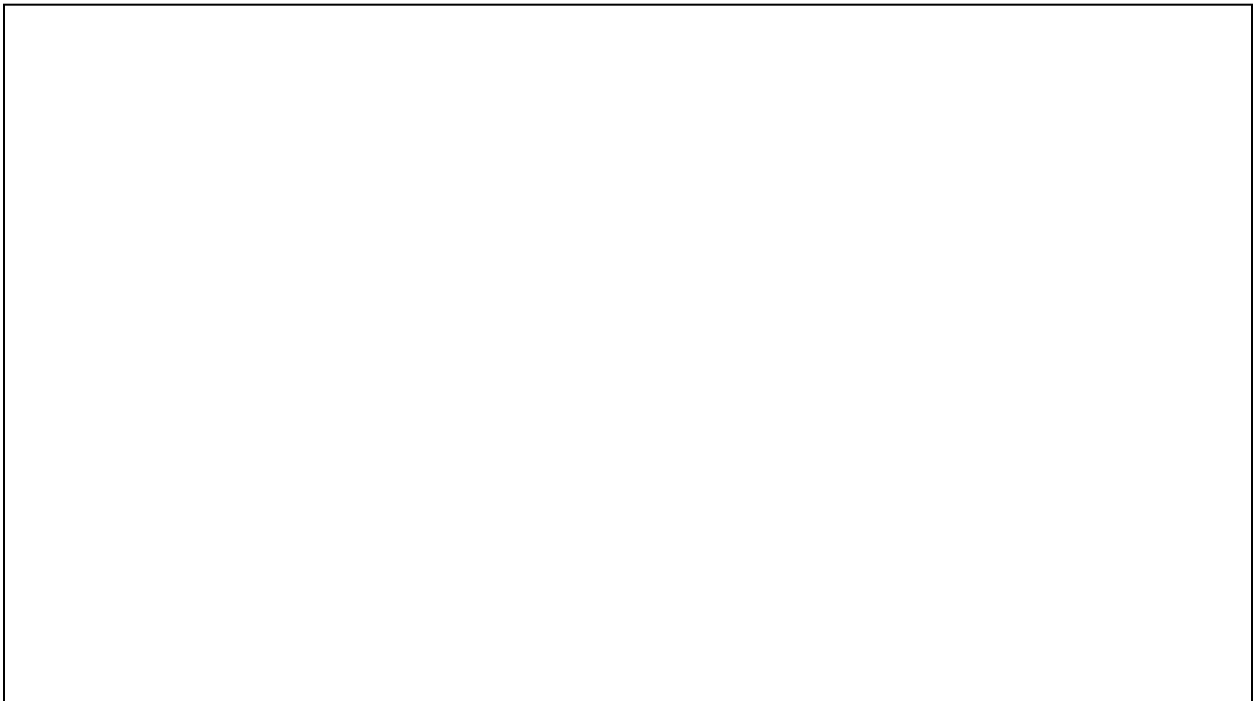
Describe any special circumstances in your family. For example: disability, divorce, separation, taking care of relatives, illness, or death of a loved one, family members in prison or deported, etc.

TRANSFORMING MY OBSTACLE INTO STRENGTH

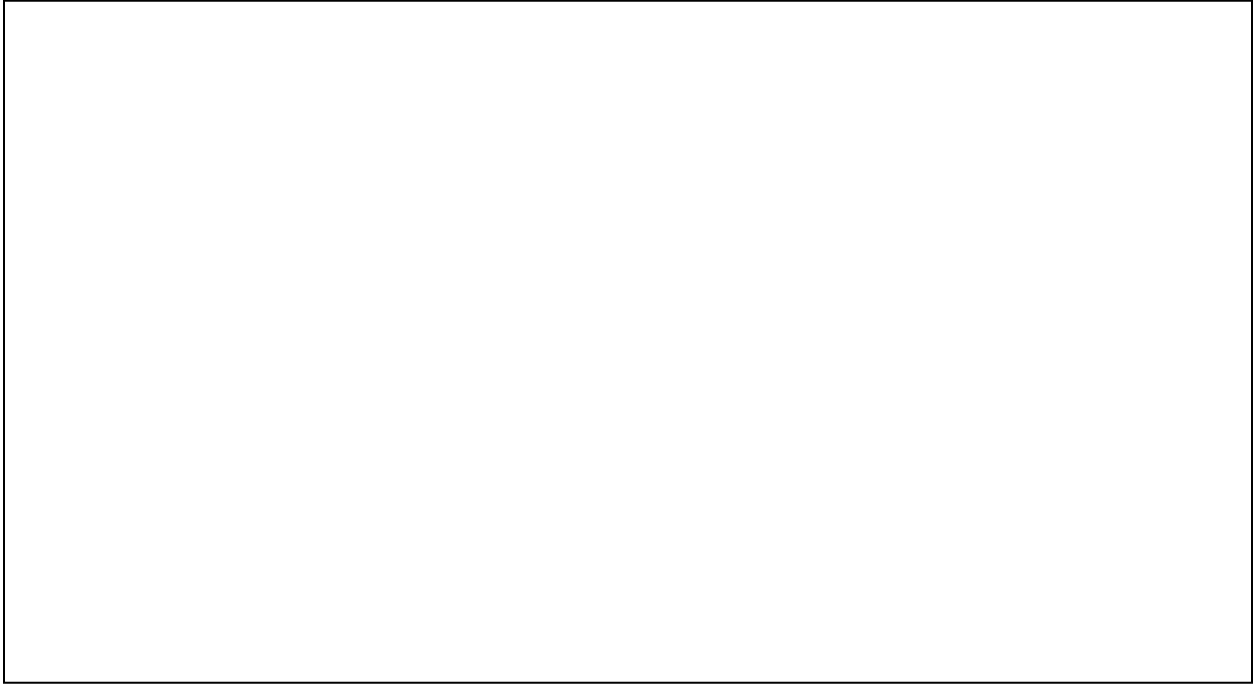
Describe an obstacle or challenge you have experienced.

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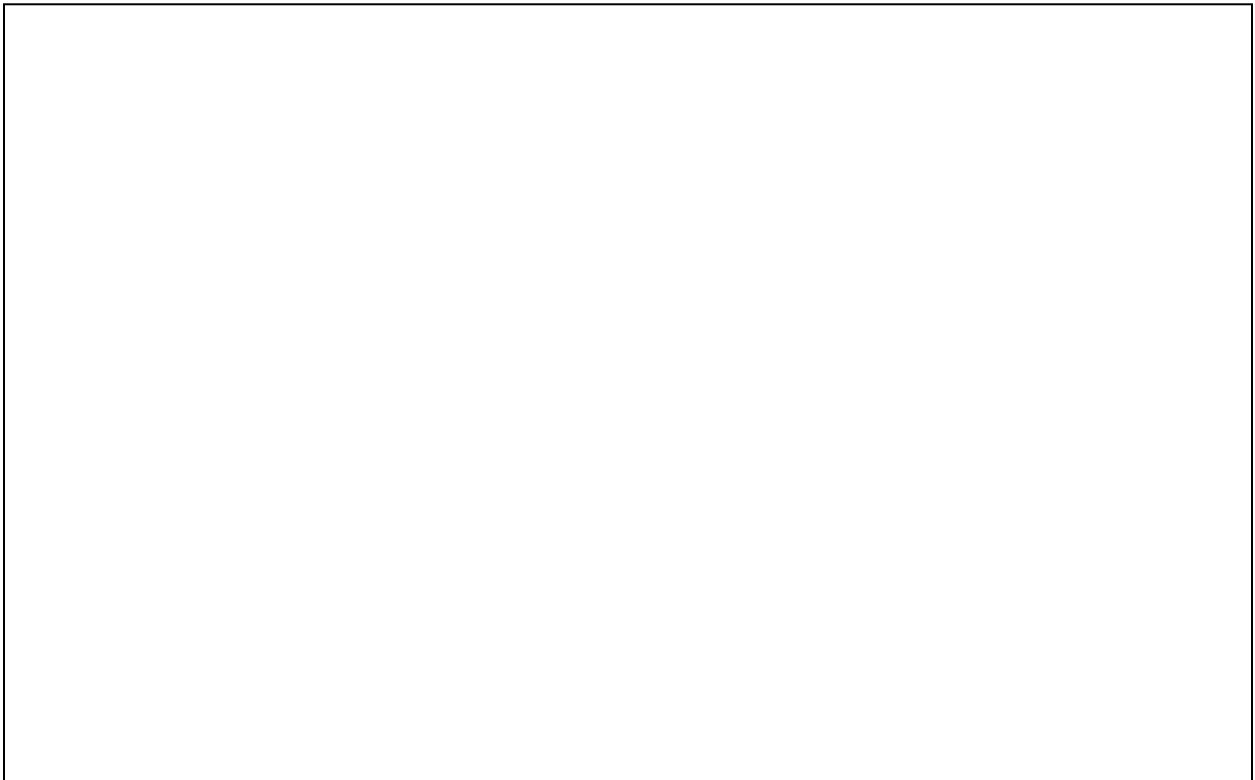
How was it difficult for you? How did you feel? What did you have to do to overcome it?

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Describe how this experience changed your perspective and/or made you stronger.
(see “Forty-Nine Qualities for Success”)

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How will this obstacle, and the strengths you have gained from it, influence your future and goals?

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EXAMPLES OF STRENGTHS

- **Ambitious** Setting high goals and having a desire to achieve.
- **Authentic** Being “real” and true to yourself.
- **Brave** You are a courageous person who does not shrink from threat, challenge, difficulty, or pain. You speak up for what is right even if there is opposition. You act on your convictions
- **Caring** Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.
- **Creative** Approaching a need, a task, or an idea from a new perspective.
- **Curious** You are curious about everything. You are always asking questions, and you find all subjects and topics fascinating. You like exploration and discovery.
- **Dedicated/Determined** Working hard to accomplish your goals, regardless of the obstacles.
- **Enthusiastic** Expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort.
- **Endurance** The inward strength to withstand stress and do my best.
- **Faithful** Confidence that actions rooted in good character will yield the best outcome, even when I cannot see how.
- **Flexible/Versatile** Willingness to change plans or ideas according to the direction of my authorities.
- **Forgiving** Clearing the record of those who have wronged me and not holding a grudge.
- **Generous** Carefully managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need.
- **Grateful** Letting others know by my words and actions how they have benefited my life.
- **Honesty/Integrity:** You are an honest person, not only by speaking the truth but by living your life in a genuine and authentic way.
- **Hopeful** You expect the best in the future, and you work to achieve it. You believe that the future is something that you can control.
- **Humorous** Bringing smiles to other people is important to you. You try to see the light side of all situations.
- **Joyful** Maintaining a good attitude, even when faced with unpleasant conditions.

- **Just** Taking personal responsibility to uphold what is pure, right, and true.
- **Logical** Connecting ideas or reasons in a sensible way
- **Love of Learning** You love learning new things, whether in a class or on your own.
- **Loyal** You are a loyal and dedicated teammate or family member, you always do your share, and you work hard for the success of your group.
- **Motivated** Driven to accomplish your goals.
- **Optimistic** Hopeful and confident about the future; seeing the positive side of things.
- **Open Minded** Willing to consider new ideas; unprejudiced.
- **Organized** Arranging myself and my surroundings to achieve greater efficiency.
- **Patient** Accepting a difficult situation without giving a deadline to remove it.
- **Persistent** Continuing toward your goal despite difficulty or opposition
- **Resourceful** Finding practical uses for that which others would overlook or discard.
- **Responsible** Knowing and doing what is expected of me.
- **Self-Controlled** Rejecting wrong desires and doing what is right
- **Trustworthy** Able to be relied on as honest or truthful.
- **Wise** Seeing and responding to life situations from a perspective that transcends my current circumstances.

SUPPORTING OTHERS/SERVICE

Discuss what you do to support your family or community. What do you help your parents and siblings with? Neighbors? Classmates? Community service? Give details about who/what/where/how often.

How did your support make a difference to those around you? How did it make you feel?

How are these experiences connected to your interests and goals?

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MY DREAM FOR THE FUTURE

What is your goal, dream, or purpose?

Why is it so important...

To you personally?

To your family or community?

To the world?

How will you achieve this goal? (In other words, what major/career are you going to pursue?)

INTRODUCTION

“Show, Don’t Tell!”

Choose a specific memory, moment or short story that relates to your obstacle or your goals. Read the introductions of the sample essays for examples.

My memory/moment/story (in one sentence):

Tell your story. You want the reader to feel like he or she was THERE! Think about what you saw, heard, felt, etc. You may even want to use dialogue.

CONCLUSION

What is the main point you want readers to understand about your obstacle, strengths, and dreams? How is this tied to the anecdote you started with?

Why do you need a scholarship? Describe in detail any special circumstances.

The last sentence should be a **POWERFUL STATEMENT** showing determination and strength. Think about...

What is your dream for the future?

Why do you **KNOW** that you can achieve that dream?