

## **Examples of Scholarship Essay Questions**

### **Tell us about a time when you had a belief or idea challenged.**

Have you studied abroad? Visited a foreign country on a family trip? Had a thought-provoking discussion with a teacher, religious leader, or friend? Think about an experience or a moment that challenged – or even changed – one of your beliefs or ideas. Explain what your original understanding of the idea was, when that idea was challenged, and how you felt about it afterward. Scholarship providers are interested in seeing reflection and growth, so expanding on every detail, including where you were, who you were with, and what you were feeling, can help tell your story in your essay.

### **What is your greatest strength?**

If you're a good writer, write how much you enjoyed your high school English class or what your strategy is for writing your scholarship essays. If you enjoy performing, give an anecdote about helping others overcome stage fright. If you excel at math, share this talent and how it has had a positive impact on your life, or how you use it to help others. Whatever your strength is, be specific and give examples.

### **What is your biggest weakness?**

The key to talking about your weaknesses is to paint them in a positive light. (And no, saying you're a perfectionist isn't a real answer.) If public speaking isn't your strong suit, explain how you took a public speaking class, even though it makes you nervous as a means of working on your weakness. Be honest, and explain how you overcome the challenges that your weakness presents you with.

### **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

You don't have to have your entire life mapped out for the next five years, but the scholarship committee wants to see that you've got some sort of game plan. What do you want to accomplish while you're in college?

What do you see yourself doing after graduation? Incorporate how this scholarship will give you a leg up on accomplishing your goals.

## **Who is your role model?**

When your interviewer asks this question, they're trying to learn more about who you are, not about your role model. Whether it's a family member, teacher, or public figure, explain how their actions have inspired you, what you have learned from them, and why they are your role model.

## **Tell us about a mistake you made or a time you failed and what you learned.**

Everyone makes mistakes. Not only does acknowledging your mistakes speak to your maturity and readiness for college, but explaining what you learned from a mistake demonstrates how you grow as an individual. The interviewer wants to see that you are self-aware and open to learning from your slipups. Scholarship providers understand that no student is perfect, and they want to know how you learned from a failure – this can be an academic, professional, or personal failure.

Break down how you failed, why you failed, and how it made you better. You can also reveal something you learned from that failure, such as what you would do differently in the future, so you don't run into that situation again, or how that moment changed your life and how you picked yourself up. This is a moment to show how you can learn and persevere.

## **Tell us about a personal achievement you are proud of.**

This is your opportunity to brag! You've worked hard to get to where you are. Did you ace the ACT? Did you hold down a job and maintain a high GPA? Were you inducted into the National Honor Society? Not only is this your chance to toot your own horn, but it tells the interviewer more about you are a person and what motivates you.