

Tips for Writing an Effective Scholarship Essay

Remember that a scholarship essay is a persuasive document

- Write in your own voice

Needs improvement: From all of these experiences, I came to a realization that being a dentist means being an imperative leader, an indispensable team player, and someone with refined dexterity skills.

Better: Leading a dental practice requires coordination among many professionals, and my experience as president of UH Students for Change has demonstrated my success in working with a team of my peers.

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- Respond directly to the essay prompt

Prompt: Identify how receiving this scholarship would help further your educational goals.

Somewhere in the response: As a recipient of this scholarship, the financial difficulty that I currently face would be lessened, allowing me to work only my one part-time tutoring job and to dedicate the time I currently spend working in food service to studying. During my senior year, that would enable me to complete an internship offered through my department's "Cougars at Work" program, an opportunity that would not otherwise be available to me.

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- Be specific

Needs improvement: My internship helped me understand the power of serving others.

Better: Through working directly with wonderful researchers in the dynamic field of biotechnology, I see now that this field has the wonderful potential not only to be on the cutting edge of technological innovation, but also to aid many patients who previously would not have had access to such resources.

- But be concise

Best: Through working directly with researchers in biotechnology, I now understand the field's potential not only to be on the cutting edge of technological innovation, but also to aid many patients in need.

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- Talk about your characteristics and qualifications by referencing specific examples

Needs improvement: To succeed academically you must work hard, and I am well-qualified based on my work ethic.

Better: Working as a math tutor while simultaneously taking 18 hours and receiving a 3.5 GPA last semester was a challenge, but my planning and time management skills assured my success. In addition to using the work as a way to earn money, I could also brush up on my skills for my classes, and I knew that I would also have time to study when I wasn't working with students.

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- Tailor your essay to the organization granting the scholarship

From the UH Alumni Association website: “The UH Alumni Association is a global community of alumni and friends committed to and sharing pride in the growth and support of the University of Houston as a premier institution.”

Example of tailoring an essay: Receiving this scholarship would enable me to use my interest in studying abroad to further my studies in international business while demonstrating the global reach of UH as a premier academic institution.

Tips for Writing an Effective Scholarship Essay

- Revise multiple times
 - Start well in advance of the due date
 - Complete a draft and put it aside
 - Review the draft to make improvements
 - Have others review it
 - Visit the UH Writing Center
 - Proofread for errors of grammar and punctuation

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WRITING CENTER

To sign up for a UH Writing Center consultation visit our website at writingcenter.uh.edu and click “Schedule Appointments” to access our scheduling system

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WRITING CENTER

**University of Houston
Writing Center**

First visit? Register for an account.
Returning? Log in below.

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PASSWORD:

CHOOSE A SCHEDULE:

Check box to **stay logged in:** [?](#)

Having trouble logging in? [Reset your password.](#)

Using screen reader software? [Access the text-only scheduler.](#)

Receiving unwanted text messages? [Remove your cell phone number.](#)

To schedule an individual consultation with the UH Writing Center, log in and select a schedule to view available times. *New users will need to register for an account to view availability.

Online General Writing Consultations and General Writing Consultations are open to ALL UH students.

Your face-to-face General Writing Consultations will be held in the Classroom and Business Building (CBB), Bldg. 499 (between Cemo Hall and the University Center) on the second floor in Room 234. [Click here to see a map of our location.](#)

Your real-time (live) Online General Writing Consultations will be accessible through the scheduling system (click your scheduled consultation at the time of the appointment to gain access).

For any of your WC Online-scheduled appointments, you can cancel your own reservation 24 hours or more prior to your meeting start-time by opening your reservation record and choosing "CANCEL APPOINTMENT."

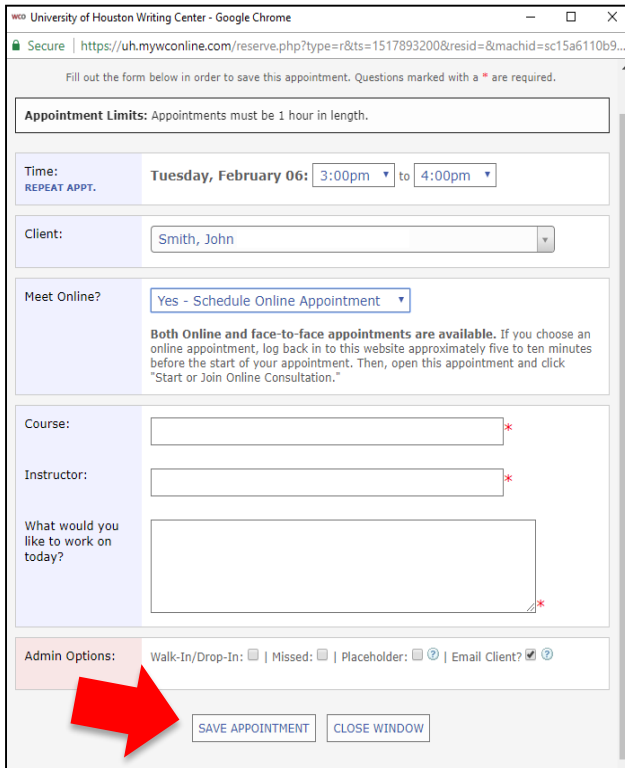
If you have further questions, please contact the staff member identified on the appropriate schedule or writingcenter@uh.edu.

If you do not have an account with the UH Writing Center, select “Click here to register” and enter your information. Once you have an account, enter your email address and password, choose “General Writing Consultations” from the drop-down menu and log in.

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Fill out the reservation record, choose “Save appointment,” then meet your consultant in room 234 of the Classroom & Business Building.



University of Houston Writing Center - Google Chrome

Secure | <https://uh.mywconline.com/reserve.php?type=&ts=1517893200&resid=&machid=sc15a6110b9...>

Fill out the form below in order to save this appointment. Questions marked with a * are required.

Appointment Limits: Appointments must be 1 hour in length.

Time: Tuesday, February 06: 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Client: Smith, John

Meet Online? Yes - Schedule Online Appointment

Course: *

Instructor: *

What would you like to work on today? *

Admin Options: Walk-In/Drop-In: | Missed: | Placeholder: | Email Client?

SAVE APPOINTMENT **CLOSE WINDOW**



You can also make audio-enabled online consultations by selecting “Online Writing Consultations” from the drop-down menu and following the same steps.