



**PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.**

**Scholarship Workshop 15 Feb 2024**

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# Overview

- **Welcome**
- **Why are you here?**
- **Accessing the Lewis Engram/John Westberry regional scholarship application**
- **Focal points of great scholarship writing**
- **What is a professional headshot**
- **Recommendation letters tips**



# Welcome

## Meet your Presenter

- **Current Chapter: Theta Delta Sigma**
- **Joined Phi Beta Sigma in 1988**
- **Gulf Coast Regional Director of Education**
  - **Lone Star State Director of Education**
  - **Chapter Director of Education**
  - **Chapter SBC Coordinator**
- **Product Manager at Veteran Affairs**





# Why are you here?

**Let's be real!**

- **You are here to get to the **MONEY****
- **Learn about scholarships (national, regional, state, & outside the fraternity)**
- **Enhance your essay writing skills**
- **Gain insight on what it takes to write great essays for scholarships**





# Gulf Coast Regional Scholarships

GCR eForms

Lewis Engram / John Westberry Scholarship Application

<https://forms.gle/bMAu8agQjpLm7VNt6>

**Click link below to  
access the scholarship  
application**

- [www.pbsgulfcoastregion.org/  
regional-conference](http://www.pbsgulfcoastregion.org/regional-conference)
- General scholarships listed  
under education programs

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# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## How do I get started?

- **Make sure you read the essay question carefully and answer it completely.**
- **Give the judges reasons that you are a good fit for the scholarship. What makes you stand out from the other applicants? How can your essay reflect these things without you having to actually state them or brag?**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Questions to ponder...

- **Who are you?**
- **What has made you who you are?**
- **What are you doing?**
- **What have you done?**
- **What are your goals?**
- **Why are you dedicated to them?**
- **What in your life reflects that commitment?**
- **Why do you need a scholarship?**
- **How will it make a difference?**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## What should I say?

- **Choose a few key points to develop...three or four are good.**
- **Think about this: What would the judges find memorable and/or unique about you.**
- **Include concrete examples to illustrate larger themes. Don't just tell the judges that you are a dedicated student; show them through an example instead.**





# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Concrete Examples

- **(Bad) “I am a very hard-working individual.”**
- **(Good) “At my current job, there is a lot of “down-time.” Instead of just sitting around, I stay busy by dusting, cleaning, taking out the garbage, and doing other chores. I try to look for things that need to be done instead of waiting to be told what to do.”**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Organizing the Essay

- **Create an outline before you begin to write.**
- **A complete outline is the key to writing an organized, clear, effective essay.**
- **Outlines can be formal or more casual—it doesn't really matter as long as you write one!**
- **Your outline should include everything you want to say in your essay.**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Introductory Sentence

- **State your name**
- **State the name of the scholarship for which you are applying.**
- **Be creative!**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Educational Objectives and Career Goals

- **Identify your major.**
- **Explain why you selected it.**
- **How will this degree impact your career plans?**
- **What are your future plans?**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Brief Background

- **Tell about yourself.**
- **How did you get to where you are today?**
- **What is important to you?**
- **Give concrete examples that reflect your character and your strengths.**
- **Include extracurricular interests: volunteer work, hobbies, things that make you stand out or are unusual.**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Need

- **Why do you need a scholarship?**
- **How will it make a difference to you?**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Conclusion

- **Wrap it up with a couple of sentences.**
- **The ending should make your essay feel finished.**
- **You can include how your education so far has made a difference to you.**
- **You can thank the judges.**
- **Avoid an ending that is too lofty or idealistic (“With my education, I plan to change the world into a beautiful, peaceful place.”)**



# Focal Points for Great Scholarship Writing

## Stylistic Concerns

- **Adhere to all page, length, and font requirements.**
- **Make sure you edit and proofread carefully.**
- **Utilize spell check and grammar check because they are great resources, but recognize their limitations.**
- **Ask someone else to read your essay and give you honest feedback.**
- **Give yourself some time away from the finished essay before you begin editing (a minimum of 24 hours is ideal.)**
- **As you edit, read slowly. Reading aloud is one way to do this. You utilize several senses instead of just sight.**





# Recommendation Letters

## The body of the letter

- **Boost competitiveness**
- **Confirm applicant character and provides substance**
- **Demonstrates applicant personal strengths, interests, integrity, leadership, academics, extra curriculum activities, achievements, overcome failures/setbacks**
- **Choose someone who know you best**
- **Give person enough time to write a letter**



# What is a Professional Headshot

## Dress for success

- Introduction to the panel
- Establish your brand
- Gives first impression
- Panel is confidence of making the right decision
- Stands out above the rest
- A picture is worth a thousand's words



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**Thank you for joining!**

**QUESTIONS**

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