**Scholarship Essay Builder**

**Brainstorming Exercise**



Throughout your academic career, you’ve probably already realized, the hardest part of writing is getting started. But once you do it’s like a faucet has been turned on and you’re gushing ideas. Let us help with the flow of ideas by following a few of our brainstorming prompts below. To “show, don’t tell,” use **the second box** to write an illustrative narrative that introduces the reader to the topic you’re going to be discussing **(the first box)**. Then illuminate how this picture you’ve painted captured a moment where you discovered something about yourself **(the third box)**. Lastly, tie it back to how it impacted your life and guided your decisions about the academic and professional experiences you want to pursue **(the fourth box)**.

**\*Beyoncé voice\* Unique! That’s what you are…**

**Name a quality, skill, or experience (or multiple) that you think distinguishes you from other students.**

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**What memories stick out in your mind that relate to this quality, skill, or experience? What emotions or senses come with these memories?**



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**Choose one of the qualities, skills, or experiences to explore. Think about how it came to be. What circumstances allowed you to develop or have it?**

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**How do you plan to apply this quality, skill, or experience to your college major or future career path?**



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**\*Miley Cyrus voice\* It’s all about the climb…**

**What was the most difficult time in your life, and why?**

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**What memories stick out in your mind when it comes to this difficult time in your life? What emotions or senses come with these memories?**



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**How did your perspective on life change as a result of the difficulty?**

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**How has this new perspective influenced your college major or future career path?**



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Now that you have articulated all these details about your experiences, you can craft a meaningful essay – the kind that leaves people saying, “that’s *deep*.” If you’re having trouble or don’t know how deep to get, refer back to the scholarship essay-building tips we’ve provided.