

## Essay Example

College Entrance and/or Scholarship Application

**Words in Bold and under lined** are what the section should be about, do not actually type that in the essay. The following words in *italics* in each section are just a sample of what type of information you might include in your essay. Use your own words to tell *YOUR* story in each paragraph.

The essay should be **300 words** and *signed by you, the applicant*. **Grammar and punctuation do count.** Here is a sample:

1. **FIRST PARAGRAPH** **Educational plans and how they relate to your career goals.**  
*My name is Teresa Jones. It has been my life-long dream to be a special education teacher. My desire to attend XYZ University and achieve my special educational degree will help me reach that goal.*
  
2. **SECOND PARAGRAPH** **Motivating factors or important experiences which have helped to shape your personal philosophy and/or your education plans/career goals.**  
*During my childhood and early teenage years, my two special needs cousins were an important part of my making this educational and career decision. I was the oldest girl cousin and when the large family gathered almost every Sunday for the after-church meal, I was often in charge of my two cousins.*
  
3. **THIRD PARAGRAPH** **Information that reflects your commitment to family, friends, and the community.**  
*In addition to caring for and loving my cousins, I have been very active in school in the mentoring program; at church in the young ages pre-school classes; and with my large extended family by helping care for my aging and frail grandmother.*
  
4. **FOURTH PARAGRAPH** **Any additional information that we should know about you.**  
*I will be the first one in my family to attend college. Because my father recently lost his job again, my mom bears the burden of providing for my four siblings and myself. Her tireless work as a hairdresser leaves her little energy for the home front. I have had to take on that responsibility and can say that I can cook, clean, wash, iron, and grocery shop. Adding a college education with a career minded focus to my life skills makes for a successful recipe for life.*
  
5. **LAST PARAGRAPH** *Thank you for the time you have devoted to reading my essay. I would like to receive this scholarship and the dollars awarded would make resounding ripples and touch many lives during my working lifetime!*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Be sure to sign your application showing it is your work.)