

date

High School Counselor
High School
address

Dear Counselor:

As in the past, members of the Women Legislators of Missouri will sponsor a scholarship award for graduating high school senior women in our state. We will be awarding eight scholarships, of up to \$500, to women graduating in 2013. One recipient will be chosen from each of the eight Missouri U. S. Congressional Districts for a scholarship award.

An application form is enclosed with this letter. **The applications must be received by 3pm, Thursday, April 25, 2013.** Applications received after this time & date will not be accepted.

The applicant should submit the completed scholarship application by mail to:

Representative Gina Mitten, Room 109H
State Capitol
201 West Capitol Ave.
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Or by email to:

gina.mitten@house.mo.gov

With the words *WLM Essay Contest* in the subject line

Please remind students that those who do not follow instruction and / or fill out the application completely may be disqualified. Again, applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

The scholarship check will be made payable to the recipient and the higher education institution.

Sincerely,

**WOMEN'S LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP
2013 ESSAY QUESTION**

Historical voting patterns estimate that voter turnout among those aged 18-24 years in “midterm” (or non-Presidential) elections is approximately 23% of those eligible, while turnout for those over the age of 30 is approximately 55%. What would you do to increase voter turnout among those aged 18-24 in the 2014 midterm election?

ESSAY MUST BE 500 WORDS OR LESS AND MUST BE **RECEIVED**,
WITH YOUR APPLICATION, ON OR BEFORE 3pm, APRIL 25, 2013

Women Legislators of Missouri 2013 Scholarship Application

(Eight scholarships of up to \$500 will be awarded to a female 2013 Graduating High School Senior)

Submission **DEADLINE: *Received by 3pm, Thursday, April 25, 2013***; please submit to:

Representative Gina Mitten, 201 W Capitol Ave, Jefferson City, MO 65101; or email to:

gina.mitten@house.mo.gov with the words **WLM Essay Contest** in the subject line.

Attention: Fill the form out completely and follow directions thoroughly so that you are not disqualified.

Applicant's Personal Information:

MO House of Representatives District# _____ U.S. Congressional District# _____
(Visit <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/> to locate your Congressional District No.)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____,

Zip: _____ - _____ (+4) (use: www.usps.com to look up your 4-digit zip code)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Phone: (____) _____

High School or GED Program currently enrolled: _____

GPA: _____ (DO NOT include transcripts)

To which colleges, universities, or vocational-technical schools have you already or plan to apply for admittance?

What area(s) of post-secondary education are you pursuing? _____

What are your current college-degree plans? _____

Leadership (you may use separate sheet and attach to application) List those work experience, volunteer and extracurricular activities in which you took a leadership role: _____

Community Service (you may use separate sheet and attach to application) List the extracurricular, community and volunteer activity programs in which you are or have been involved.

Essay Subject (500-word limit): Historical voting patterns estimate that voter turnout among those aged 18-24 years in "midterm" (or non-Presidential) elections is approximately 23% of those eligible, while turnout for those over the age of 30 is approximately 55%. What would you do to increase voter turnout among those aged 18-24 in the 2014 midterm election?

Writing a Good College Scholarship Essay

A great many scholarship competitions require a written essay. Scholarship committees do this for a variety of reasons. One of the main ones is to get an idea of what the person who's applying for the scholarship is like. Yes, GPA, community service, volunteerism and leadership are important qualities, but by the time you've gotten to where you're being considered, everyone you're competing against will also have strong records in all these areas. And so the scholarship committee will read your essay to see what sets you apart from the crowd, looking for a reason to select you over all the others. So, the essay can be the make or break portion of your application. A winning scholarship essay can mean up to tens of thousands of dollars for your college education, so you need to do your best to make a real impression with your words.

So when you're writing your essay, keep asking yourself if you'd find your essay compelling if someone else had written it, and you were on the final awards committee and reading it. You want to make it clear that you're a unique individual, without coming across as self absorbed, or judgmental of those students less accomplished than yourself. And while you don't want to make it sound as if you've had a tough life if that's not the case, if you really have had to overcome some serious adversity in your life, by all means mention it. If you were left in a wheelchair due to a car wreck, or if you've triumphed over a terrible disease, or if you came to America from your war ravaged country at the age of 5 speaking no English...the essay is the time to mention it. The ability to overcome tragedies like that are exactly what these committees are looking for. Don't have a pity party, but let them know you've prevailed over difficult circumstances. And don't simply mention your memberships in different groups-write about things you did that demonstrate leadership and initiative, and any active role you played in addressing a need in your community.

It's one thing to help out at a community recreation center a few hours a week; it's a completely different thing if you took it upon yourself to suggest, recruit, organize, and lead a fund raising drive for new playground equipment at a local park. Of course, besides these ideas, there are the basics, which you can't forget about. It should go without saying, but spell check and proofread your essay, and have at least one other person proofread it before submitting it. Editing software and spell checkers are great tools, but they don't catch everything. Read it out loud-you may catch errors that don't stand out when reading it. Check your word length, and edit if necessary-scholarship committees don't look kindly on applicants who ignore their rules. Avoid slang at all costs, but don't come off as a pseudo intellectual, either. And ask someone whose opinion you trust to read your essay and give you constructive criticism.

Again, potentially tens of thousands of dollars in college aid are riding on your scholarship essay, so make it sparkle. And there are books available on the topic if you're having trouble. Go to the library and borrow one, and use the tips you just read here, and you'll be ahead of your competition.