**Essay Topic or Personal Goal Statement**

The first paragraph should be 3-4 sentences; the first sentence should be your introduction (What is your name, what college you are attending? Identify your major and why you did you select the major). **Example:** I have always enjoyed working with technology and coding. I’m pursuing a career in Information Technology; this will allow me to pursue my interest – and obtain a viable career and do something that I enjoy.

Provide a brief background (how did you get to where you are today, what is important to you “hobbies, volunteer work”, Academic Accomplishments “GPA, honor distinctions”) **Example:** During my free time, I volunteer at the Lutheran soup kitchen. Much of my free time is spent with my children, teaching them by example that education is important. I am currently enrolled in 12 credit hours and I work two part-time jobs.

In this paragraph, you will explain your need for the scholarship and how it will make a difference to you. **Example:** although I work two part-time jobs, I find it difficult to meet the financial demand of supporting myself and covering my education expenses. This scholarship will allow me to continue on my educational journey. The money I earn at the car wash part-time is barely enough to cover my books and supplies. A scholarship would help a great deal. Receiving a scholarship would allow me to reduce the number of hours that I work at the daycare, which would then allow me more time to concentrate on my studies.

The final paragraph will be your conclusion; you can state how your education has made a difference to you, and a thank you sentence. **Example:** “Thank you for taking the time to review my application; I look forward to hearing from you!