

Writing Your Scholarship Essay

TIPS FROM COLLEGE OF DUPAGE WRITING, READING, SPEECH ASSISTANCE

Review the Prompts

The general application for College of DuPage scholarships has the following questions:

Required: Pick an experience from your own life and explain how it has influenced your development. (300 words)

Optional: From a financial standpoint, what impact would this scholarship have on your education? (300 words)

Don't forget to check if there are additional prompts for the specific scholarship you are applying for.

Brainstorm

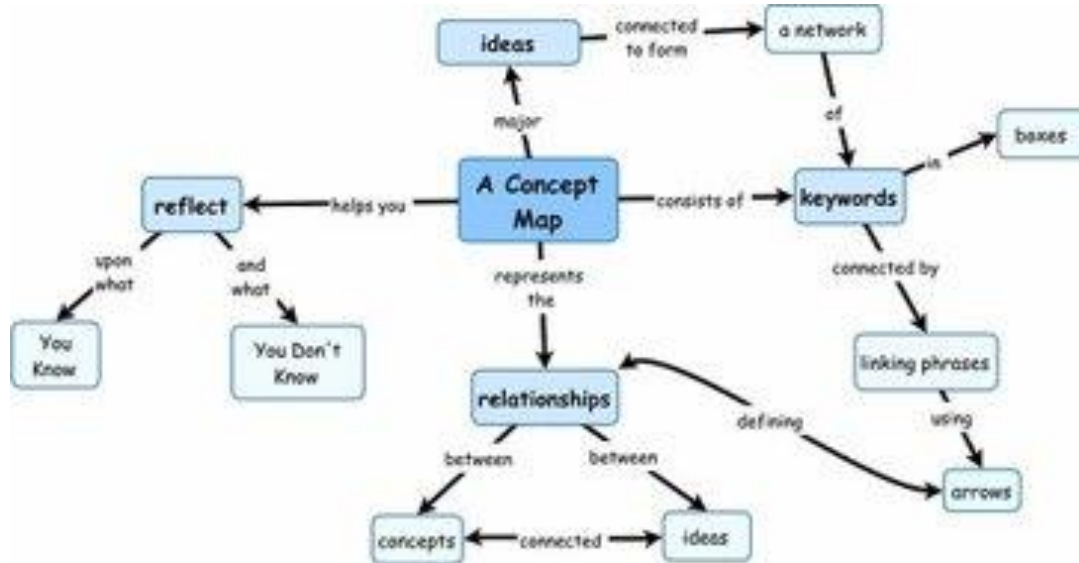
Remember, this is your story, and you get to choose how you want to tell it! Your story is important, meaningful, and interesting, even before you've begun to write it.

Listing

- Choose one question to focus on for 2-3 minutes.
- As fast as you can, write down words, phrases, or ideas that come to your mind.
- Grammar, spelling, and legibility to others does not matter.
- When the time is up, take time to pause and review your ideas.
- Are there any that spark your interest?

Concept Mapping

- Write down words or phrases related to the prompt.
- Use arrows and connecting words to show relationships between topics.



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Freewriting

- Write as fast as you can for 10 minutes about the prompt.
- Keep your pencil moving.
- Don't stop to evaluate, judge, or correct your writing until after the timer goes off.

Draft

- Give yourself plenty of time
- Work in a comfortable place
- Keep the prompt in mind
- Consider your audience
- Tell your inner perfectionist to take a break
- Be true to your sense of self

Revise

- Have you answered the prompt fully?
- Is there a clear beginning and ending?
- Does the organization make sense?
- Is there a cohesive narrative throughout?
- Does the scope of the essay feel appropriate?
- Are you true to your sense of self and story?

Edit & Proofread

- Are there any sentences that feel awkward when reading out loud?
- Are there any grammar, spelling, or capitalization errors?
- Are you within the word limit?

Get Another Reader

Ask someone in your support network to read (friends, family members, professors, coaches, or mentors).

Visit [Writing, Reading, Speech Assistance](#) in the Learning Commons (SRC 2102).

- Free for anyone with College of DuPage ID
- Trained professional coaches
- 45-minute appointments
- In-person, virtual, or email

Check Before You Submit

- Shared your story in a way that feels true and authentic to you?
- Answered each part of the prompt?
- Considered your audience?
- Stayed within the word limit?
- Checked your grammar, spelling, and capitalization?
- Correctly saved and submitted your essays to the virtual application?