

## OSAC & Other Scholarship Essays

There are four short essays for the Oregon Student Assistance Commission scholarship application. These questions will reappear over and over on the applications for scholarships at Astoria, Seaside and Warrenton High Schools, on applications for scholarships from specific colleges and on the Insight Resume that is required for admission to OSU. While the questions will probably vary in some small way and in the amount of words you have to respond to them, if you develop a solid, core essay now, you will be saving yourself a great deal of work as scholarship season approaches full swing.

OSAC Essays:

150 words for each of the following topics (all are required).

1. Explain your career aspirations and your educational plan to meet these goals. Be specific.
2. Explain how you have helped your family or made your community a better place to live. Provide specific examples
3. Describe a personal accomplishment and the strengths and skills you used to achieve it.
4. Describe a significant change or experience that has occurred in your life. How did you respond and what did you learn about yourself?

The following few pages will break down each question and give you specific advice for how to respond to it, as well as some brainstorming ideas. Before that, however, here is some general advice for all of the questions.

**Write on topic:** Make sure you are responding to the question asked and, if it has multiple parts, as each of the above do, make sure you hit each part of the question.

**Keep it to the point:** 150 words go by fast. Stay focused and keep your essay short and powerful – avoid fluff.

**Proofread:** For the love of all that is holy, proofread your essays. DO NOT just spell check and assume that everything is good. Spell check alone will not catch mistakes like this: “I ran spell check too find my airs and it said awl my sentences were write – know read lines showed up!”

**Do the pre-writing and complete a rough draft:** For your rough drafts, combine the pre-writing areas into an essay form, staying within the 150 word limit. Also, as you are writing, use your own, unique voice so that readers can differentiate you from the hundreds of other essays they are reading.