

Selecting a Scholarship Winner

1. First Glance

- The judges' first evaluation of scholarship application is a quick one:
 - Does it meet qualifications?
 - Say "no" to an applicant who does not meet the minimum requirements.
- Is the application neat? An application with coffee stains or messy handwriting will not make the cut.
- Are all of the required documents included? Be sure there is nothing left out; references, transcripts, photographs, or anything else the application requires.
- Are all of the questions answered? Scan the application to see if there have been any questions left unanswered.

2. The Second Cut

- This is the most difficult step. Once you have narrowed down the applications, it is very important to closely review and re-read the application assuring that the responses are well thought out and clear. Double-check all essays against the scholarship rules and criteria.

3. The Final Decision

- *Academics* – It is important to have a competitive GPA. However, consider how challenging the course load is. Are they taking college credit courses or advanced placement courses (AP course)?
- *Leadership* – If leadership is part of the criteria, examine applicant's activities. Also, look for a range of leadership positions.
- *Service* – What community service has the applicant completed? Has the applicant volunteered continuously within the community? If their school requires volunteer work, do the applicant activities go above and beyond the required service job.
- *Creativity* – Does the applicant show their creative side? Do they play an instrument, write stories, paint pictures or act in plays? Do they demonstrate their ability by letting the judges know if they have won any awards?
- *Special Circumstances* – Review if applicant has overcome any obstacles to achieve his/her goals. Review what was done, in spite of the roadblocks they have encountered.