Tips for writing Essays for Global Opportunity Scholarships and Applications

Congratulations! If you are reading this you have most likely selected a program and are preparing your application and scholarship essays. This is a exciting time and since essays can have a big impact on your plans we’d like to offer some suggestions and guidelines for writing them. Both scholarship and application essays are very important because they give you a chance to accentuate your individual strengths, as well as explain any apparent weaknesses.

Your audience will be the selection committee, and they would like to understand who you are and why you would like to go abroad. The selection committee will be looking for complete applications, which not only answer the prompt and give the committee a good idea about who the candidate is, their goals, and the relevancy of the international experience to their goals. Below are some five tips that can help make sure that your essay is competitive!

1. **Read the directions and know the deadlines**- Each essay will have specific instructions on how the essay should be written and when and how it should be turned in. Not following these instructions or missing the deadline will put your application in jeopardy of disqualification. It is important to note that you can apply to OGO scholarships even if you haven’t been accepted into your program!

2. **Answer the question**- This may seem obvious, but it is a frequent mistake made by essay writers. Make sure you read the question or essay prompt very carefully. Your essay should answer the entire question and address all aspects of the essay prompt. Be sure to answer any specific criteria for the scholarship.

3. **Brainstorm and use an outline**- Before you start writing, brainstorm about the essay questions or essay prompt. Ask yourself: What topics am I being asked to write about? What examples from my life relate to the topic? How does this global opportunity fit in, considering who I am? How does it fit in with my academic and career goals? What will I be able to contribute as a returnee from this program? Begin by creating an outline which will guide your writing and make sure you touch upon all the important information that you brainstormed!

4. **Tell your story and make connections**- Telling your story to the scholarship committee is your opportunity to show how thoughtful, creative and committed you are to this experience. You want your essay to convey who you are as a person, how you meet the scholarship criteria and clear connections from your life, goals and academics to the global experience.

5. **Proofread and makes an appointment with the writing Center**- Proofreading your essay for sentence structure, spelling, grammar and other errors is an essential step. Read your essay aloud to more easily identify mistakes. Take your essay to the Student Writing Center, located in Alden Library Learning Commons and have someone review it with you! Check their website for walk in hours. Make sure you bring a draft! [http://ohiouswc.wordpress.com/walk-in-appointments/](http://ohiouswc.wordpress.com/walk-in-appointments/)

Remember: if you have any questions about scholarship opportunities you can talk to an advisor at the Office of Global Opportunities during Walk-in Hours Monday-Friday 1-4pm at Walter International Education Center.