

# Scholarships 101 Fridge Notes

## Leave Luck in The Dust – high school preparation

Freshman year of high school

- Do your best and if necessary prioritize core classes over electives or activities.
- Strive for a B or better in all classes.

Sophomore year of high school

- Focus on core classes to build a base for higher-level classes.
- Invest time in career exploration. Conduct career interest surveys, talk with interesting professionals, and search career websites.
- Take test preparation classes. Take sample or preliminary tests in your school library or online.

Junior year of high school

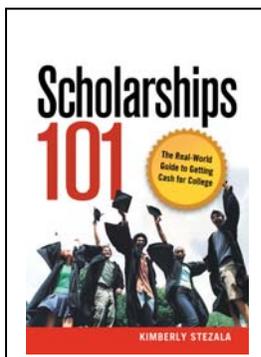
- Make careful course selections and do more than the minimum.
- Pursue side jobs, hobbies, and clubs.
- Take the ACT or SAT tests, which are used by several scholarship committees and colleges as a gauge of your aptitude for college.
- Seek leadership positions in your school for activities that you enjoy.
- Tell everyone you know that you want to go to college. Ask questions to people that you admire about how they achieved their goals.
- Show that you are on the path to college by investing in yourself.
- Start looking for scholarships.

Senior year of high school

- Apply to college and keep up your grades.
- Do more than the minimum.
- Excel at what you do.
- Build your Team of Champions.
- Use all the resources at your school.
- Apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and ask your parents to get their taxes done early. You can apply for the FAFSA after January 1 of your senior year, but don't wait too long.
- Meet all deadlines and give other people time to respond to your requests for information.
- Apply the principles you learn in *Scholarships 101*.

Senior year – PARENTS

- Plan to complete your taxes early this year.
- Sign necessary forms, permission slips, and college materials as soon as possible.
- In the college funding game, early is better and deadlines matter.
- If your child uses online college applications or the online FAFSA form, be sure to double-check spelling, dates, and details before pushing the "send" button.



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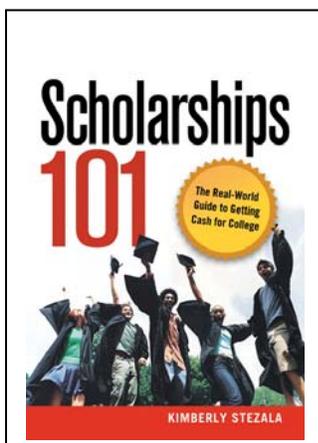
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## Ready for college

- Invest in test prep or tutoring if you need it.
- Visit college campuses in your county or state, for starters. Plan a road trip with another family to make it more fun.
- Investigate college prep or pre-college programs in your area. If your budget is flexible, look at national programs. What interests you? Can you ask a friend to go with you?
- Create a college prep club if you do not attend a college prep high school. Surround yourself with people who have similar goals.
- Think scholarships! In your conversations and your actions, let people know you are looking for scholarships.
- Add your new experiences to your scholarship worksheet and résumé.
- Think about these experiences. Were they fun? Boring? Exciting? Scary? Why? Use your answers to guide your next choice.



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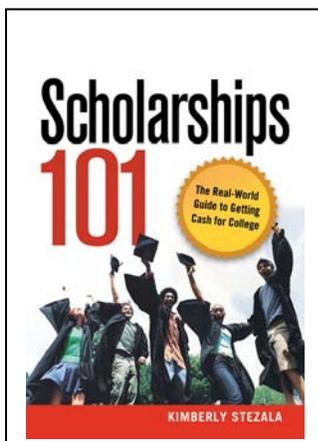
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## Class Notes: Forming Your Plan

1. Is your dream ready to go?
2. Have you invested in yourself? What else do you need to do? Test prep? Work on writing skills?
3. Set up your world headquarters and gather your supplies.
  - a. Folder or binder
  - b. Stamps
  - c. Stapler
  - d. Envelopes
  - e. Thank you notes
  - f. White computer paper
  - g. Electronic storage
4. Make sure your Team of Champions is ready to go.
5. Divide the work. Will it be just you or anyone else? (Fill in the blanks.)
  - a. Writing: YOU
  - b. Proofreading: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Searching for scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Request and keep records: \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Photocopies: \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Postage and mailing: \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Scheduling: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you ready?



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## Your Backpack Checklist

*Scholarship worksheet brainstorming*

- Your academic life: who are you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Your personal life: who are *you*, your *parents*, your *family*? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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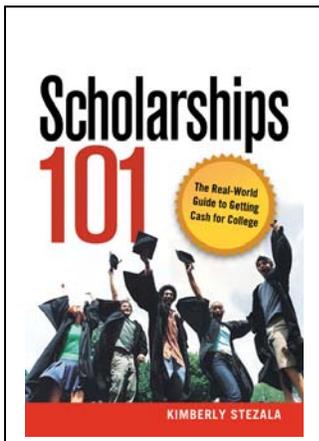
(This will require you to talk with your parents. Text messaging about family history can be difficult.)

*Scholarship worksheet formatting*

- Use proactive versus passive language.
- Use details that showcase your Fabulous Factor.
- Inform, don't brag.

*Scholarship résumé*

- Create a nice, neat, condensed version of your worksheet.
- Remember to remove very personal information about your family.



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## The Search Is On

- Cyberspace Chase.* What's your favorite scholarship search site?

www. \_\_\_\_\_

- Printed Publications.* Local newspaper? School newsletter?

Start skimming for scholarships. What are your sources? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- The Auntie-Net.* Who's the information maven in your family?

\_\_\_\_\_

- Self-Promotion.* Who knows about you and your quest for scholarship dollars?

\_\_\_\_\_

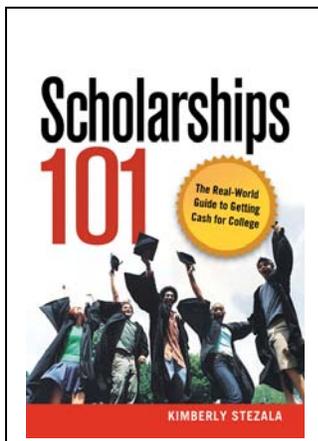
\_\_\_\_\_

- Special Circumstances.* Identify any special issues or circumstances you are facing and seek scholarships under those categories. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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## The Next Round

*Keep it moving!*

- Continue your search for scholarships.
- Update prospects and leads on your scholarship tracking tool.
- Check voice mail, email, and snail mail on a regular basis.
- Provide any extra materials that sponsors requested.

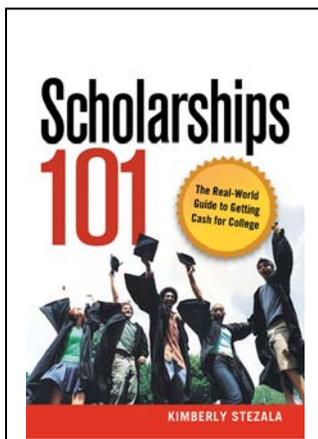
*Become an interview expert*

- Practice your interviewing skills (greet people, make eye contact, focus your thoughts, pace your voice).
- Read your essay aloud.
- Use the practice questions or make up your own. Be prepared for the judges to ask you if you have any questions of them. What would you ask if given the chance? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (hint: don't ask "When do I get the money.")

Ask something about them or the organization.)

- Pick out your clothes for the interview ahead of time. What will you wear if you are chosen for an interview? \_\_\_\_\_
- Arrange transportation, if needed. How will you get to your interview? \_\_\_\_\_



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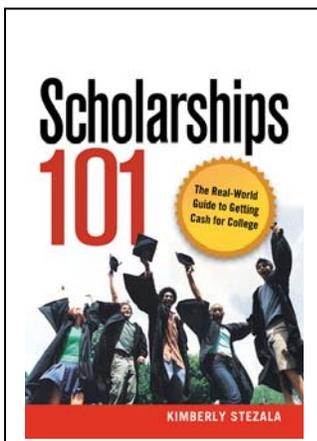
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## Application Review

7. Use your scholarship tracking tool to prioritize your scholarship applications. Look at your leads. Which ones are good prospects? Which ones are top priorities? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Remember the principles of marketing: product (you), price (hassle-free), promotion (who knows about you?) and placement (where should you be?).
9. Write active rather than passive sentences. Use strong action verbs.
10. Choose the right people to submit letters of recommendation on your behalf, and provide them with the information they need to do the job well. List them here: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Invest in your essays. Craft personalized essays for each application, using your best sentences and paragraphs. Recycle carefully. Combine information and inspiration to create a compelling essay. Let judges "get to know you."
12. Proofread everything more than once. Ask someone else to proofread, too.



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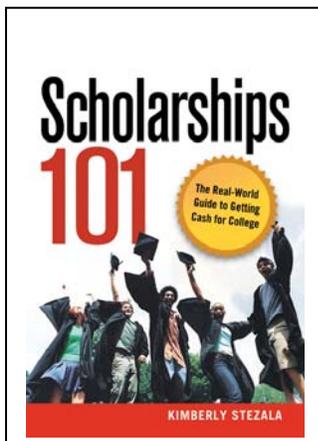
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## Techno Talk

- Think about your presence on the Internet. What might scholarship providers learn about you?\_\_\_\_\_
- How can you maximize free resources, use technology, and maintain a level of privacy that is comfortable to you?\_\_\_\_\_
- What creative ways can you use technology to assist and enhance your quest for scholarships?\_\_\_\_\_
- Who on your team of champions can assist you with technology if you need help?\_\_\_\_\_
- Which email address will you use on your applications?\_\_\_\_\_
- Which phone number will you use on your applications?\_\_\_\_\_
- Where are you saving your scholarship worksheet, résumé, letters of recommendation and applications? On your hard drive? On a jump drive? Did you create back-ups or multiple copies? What is your plan to preserve your information?\_\_\_\_\_



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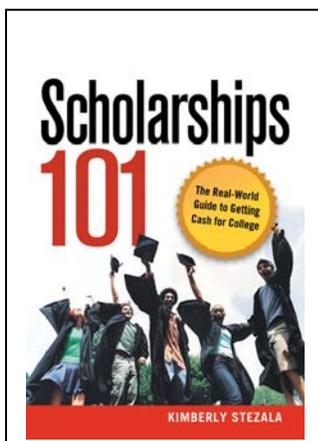
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## Scholarship Success Reminders

- **Respond.** When you win a scholarship, review the terms of the agreement and immediately return the signed materials to your sponsor.
- **Thank.** Definitely thank the sponsor but thank your Team of Champions, too.
- **Celebrate!** Acknowledge your accomplishment. Attend the banquets and ceremonies if you can.
- **Revise.** Add the names of the scholarships that you won onto your scholarship résumé. This shows new potential sponsors that someone else thought you were pretty great.
- **Alert.** Inform your high school and college about the scholarship. Your high school will want to know so they can brag about you and your college needs to know for financial aid purposes.
- **Continue.** Once you win a scholarship, your adrenalin should kick in and that's the best time to apply for another one. Keep going.



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## Boot Camp At-A-Glance

**NO FEAR. MAKE TIME. COME HUNGRY.**

Step 1: Dream bigger, better, bolder

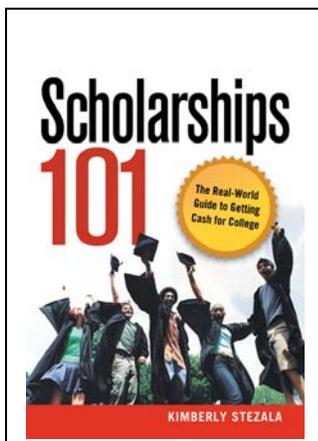
Step 2: Invest in the best

Step 3: Commit to a new essay

Step 4: Nurture your Team of Champions

Step 5: Hunt down those scholarships

Step 6: Combine the power of your Dream, Plan, Act, and Excel commitment to these specific subjects: Fund-Raising 101, Assessment 101, Marketing 101, Applications 101, Recommendations 101, Essays 101, and Persistence 101.



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