



## HDCC WRITING TIPS FOR A GREAT SCHOLARSHIP RESPONSE

**1. Clear writing is clear thinking:** The best responses are simple, personal, and genuine. Before you start responding to the two questions, capture your ideas in notes or pictures. Map out your thoughts and illustrations. Remember Question #1 asks: What do you enjoy today that might make a great career for you in the future? (Think academic interests, extracurricular activities, hobbies, family chores and activities, community involvement) Why do you think it might be a great career for you? Think first, draft your ideas second.

**2. Question #2 involves some research first:** Identify a college or colleges of interest that can help you pursue your goals; identify three (3) courses you might like to take in college. You can include your research into your overall written response. It does not have to be a separate answer.

**3. Voice and Spelling:** An effective response should convey your voice (think personality) and should have perfect spelling. Voice means that when you tell stories about yourself or you share how you personally feel about something, you use your own age appropriate words. True, honest and heartfelt.

**4. Responses have a clear beginning, middle and end:** A strong first sentence can instantly capture your reader's attention; it can be something fun, something that engages the reader right from the start, and makes the reader want to get more information. For example, "Action!" might be a good opener or grabber for an essay by someone who wants to become a film director. And your final sentence should help your reader see how your choice will have a positive impact on your future.

### **5. Important Final Application Check List:**

- + Your name, school, and grade on both pages of the scholarship application
- + Well-written response, including a college choice and three courses identified
- + Effort assessment by student
- + Parent/Guardian Assessment
- + Teacher Comment (S/he will do this after you return your application to her/him)
- + Stapled together with cover sheet
- + Give the application to your classroom teacher

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Bayard "Bags" Brokaw, HDCC Director at [bagsbrokaw@gmail.com](mailto:bagsbrokaw@gmail.com) or call 207-664-3490.**

**THANK YOU!**