Finding Scholarships

Developing Tomorrow’s Talent Today
because they aren’t going to find you.
Types of Scholarships

• Merit Based – academics and/or achievements (talent, extracurricular and community service)
• Need Based – student’s and/or family’s financial need
• Career Based – pursuing a specific career
• College Based – offered by college due to academic or personal achievement
Where to start?

The college that you want to attend.
Websites . . . another place to look.

- www.clevelandfoundation.org
- www.zinch.com
- www.cappex.com
- www.collegenowgc.org
Strategy #1: Think Local

- Local civic organizations, churches, your high school, your place of employment all might offer scholarships.

- Your chance of getting a scholarship goes up the more local it is!

- www.collegenowgc.org
Strategy # 2:

Think Specific

– Scholarships are available for students based on academic achievement, for certain majors, for underrepresented students, etc.

– There are scholarships for specific people; as specific as YOU!
Strategy # 3:

Think Easy

- Apply to the most obvious scholarships first.
Applying for Scholarships

• Be sure you meet all deadlines

• Understand what is required for submission

• Follow up in a timely manner if you have not heard from awarding institution
The Essay Step 1:

- Choosing a topic
  - Are you answering the question
  - Do you have enough information to support your topic
  - Is your topic too controversial or too boring
  - Tell what is unique about you
  - Be authentic - be truthful
  - Start early – leave plenty of time to revise, reword and rewrite
  - Save your essays on a flash drive or google docs
The Essay Step 2:

• Writing your essay
  – Use the essay as a chance to separate yourself from other applicants
  – Write so people understand what you are saying
  – The body of your essay should support the introduction
  – Re-use essays or portions when possible
  – Avoid re-writing accomplishments
The Essay Step 3:

- Writing your essay
  - Who are you? (NO demographics)
  - When people describe me they usually say . . .
  - Share a specific accomplishment, give details – something you are proud of.
  - What are your goals – why?
  - Pay it forward – what will you do with your education?
  - Why me? What will this support do to assist you reach your goals?
The Essay Step 4:

- Proofing an essay
  - Ask at least two honest and qualified people to read over your essay
  - If you quoted something make sure you cited it correctly
  - Make sure each word counts
Don’t do this . . .

Eye halve a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea,
It plainly marquee four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weigh for it two say,
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long,
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Beware!

- Not all scholarship providers have your best interest in mind!
  - Watch out for:
    - Application Fees
    - Guaranteed Winnings
    - Too-good-to-be-true offers
College Now
Greater Cleveland

Questions?

www.collegenowgc.org