

VC Foundation Scholarship Essay Breakdown

Essay 1

Describe how you contribute to the well-being of your community. Discuss your participation in and what you have learned from school or other extracurricular activities, VC clubs or organization involvement, family responsibilities, volunteer work, employment, a particular hobby or other interests. It may be helpful to include words that describe you. If you have been unable to contribute to the community, tell us why you could not (for example: part-time job, children, lack of transportation or other reasons) and what you would do if you had the time/resources/energy available to participate. You can additionally share about a time where someone helped you and what your plans are to pay it forward. If applicable, explain how these experiences align with possible career goals.

Brainstorming Questions:

- In what ways do you currently contribute to your community? (school, family, neighborhood, work, church, volunteer groups, clubs, etc.)
- Have you joined any Ventura College clubs, student organizations, or other community groups?
- Do you have responsibilities at home or work that support others (siblings, children, parents, customers, coworkers)?
- What skills or qualities have you developed (teamwork, leadership, creativity, resilience, responsibility)?
- How would your friends, teachers, or family describe you in positive words?
- If you haven't been able to participate much in community activities, what challenges stood in your way (job, transportation, childcare, health, etc.)?
- Can you share a time when someone helped you?
 - How did that experience make a difference in your life?
 - How do you plan to pay that kindness forward in the future?
- How do you see yourself contributing to your community through your future profession and education?

Essay 2

What area(s) of study are you excited/passionate about and why? Did an experience or mentor lead you to this interest? What career goals do you have that align with this interest? If you have not yet chosen a field of study, how do you see Ventura College assisting you in exploring different paths of study and eventually leading to a career path? Please elaborate on your plans to achieve your goals and what activities you're doing now (through work or otherwise) to support those goals. Explain how a scholarship can help you.

Brainstorming Questions:

- What subject(s), topics, or areas of study excite you the most?
- Why do these areas interest you — what about them makes you curious, motivated, or inspired?
- Was there a specific experience that sparked your interest?
- Has a mentor, teacher, or role model encouraged you in this area? How?
- What careers are you considering that connect to your interest(s)?
- What impact do you want to make in your field or community through this career?
- If you don't have a chosen field yet, what areas do you want to explore at Ventura College?
- How can VC's programs, classes, or resources help you discover a career path?
- What steps are you taking now (schoolwork, jobs, internships, volunteer work, personal projects, clubs, etc.) that support your goals?
- **How would receiving a scholarship help you pursue your studies? (Examples: reduce work hours, pay for books, cover transportation, focus more on school, access opportunities, relieve stress.)**
- **How would this support bring you closer to achieving your goals?**

AVOID THESE COMMON MISTAKES:

- Quotations
- Inappropriate Use of Humor
- Listing Accomplishments
- Asking Philosophical Questions
- Sayings – poems – acronyms
- List of words, activities, or awards.

Tutoring Center Fall 2025 Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8AM – 7PM
Friday 9:00AM – 1:00PM
Closed on Saturdays
Sunday 2:00PM – 7:00PM