

**Independent Living Program Activity Card**

**Category: EDUCATION**

**Activity: Complete a “Request for Scholarship” Essay**

**Description:** The objective of this assignment is to help you develop a “Request for Scholarship” essay. This type of essay helps readers understand your experiences, describes how you overcame adversity and gives you a chance to explain how you will improve yourself and become a contributing member of your community. This is one example where being in foster care can work to your benefit. This essay may make the difference to getting your scholarship needs fulfilled. You may use the template and sample letter to help you complete this activity.

**You may earn \$10.00 ILP dollars for your essay. It must be typed and attached.**

Total Dollars Earned:

<p>\$</p>
<p>(ILP Use Only)</p>

Notes:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<p>_____ Youth Signature</p>	<p>_____ Date of Birth</p>
<p>_____ Print Name (Youth)</p>	<p>_____ Group Home (If Applicable)</p>

<p><b>Receipt</b></p>
<p>(ILP Use Only)</p>

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## Complete a “Request for Scholarship” Essay

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# TEMPLATE

### MY PERSONAL HISTORY:

**DESCRIPTION** - This paragraph may include your challenges and successes related to your experience with the foster care system, your family situation, your living conditions, your socioeconomic status, your education, etc. The purpose may be to give a general description of where you came from and how you may have overcome adversity. (Note: a general description about why you entered the foster care system is enough for the purpose of this essay. For example, you can say “I was placed into the foster care system due to my family circumstances.” You don’t need to address the specific details of why you were placed in care. The most important thing is that you are comfortable with what you are sharing about yourself!)

The following questions may help guide you to construct your paragraph:

1. How old were you the first time you entered the foster care system?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How many times were you placed into the foster care system?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many foster/group homes did you live in?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why were you placed into the foster care system?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What obstacles did you face?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How have you overcome those obstacles?

\_\_\_\_\_

### MY RELEVANT JOB/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

The following questions may help guide you to construct your paragraph:

1. Where have you recently worked and/or currently work?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did/does your position(s) entail?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you been at your recent/current job(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What volunteer work have you done?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does your job/volunteer experience relate to your career field?

\_\_\_\_\_

**MY EDUCATION EXPERIENCE & GOALS:**

The following questions may help guide you to construct your paragraph:

1. What school are you currently attending or what school did you last attend?

2. What is your major?

3. How are/were your grades?

4. What is your academic ability?

5. What are your extracurricular activities?

6. What are your strengths?

7. What college or trade school do you plan to attend?

8. What are your educational goals?

9. What are you passionate about?

10. What are your career goals?



Independent Living Program  
Take Home Activity

SAMPLE

**John Jones**  
123 Main Street, Apt. 1  
Fantasy Land, CA 92000  
(714) 555-1234 Cell  
jjones@emails.com

December 26, 2018

Mr. /Ms. <First Name> <Last Name>  
<Company/Organization Name>  
Street Address  
City, State, Zip Code

To Whom It May Concern **OR** Dear <Mr. / Ms. Last Name>:

I wish to apply for <name of scholarship> to assist my pursuit of a college education. The following is a brief summary about my personal history, goals, need for assistance and my self-recommendation for your consideration.

Since the age of <age> I have been a dependent of the court and lived in a series of foster homes and group homes. Due to my family circumstances I was placed into the foster care system on <#> separate occasions. Although I have faced many challenges I feel I have overcome them by getting good grades, volunteering to help others and steadily working since the age of <age>.

For the past <time period> I have worked at <company> as <job title>. My position entails <job functions>. In addition, I volunteer for <organization(s)>. My job and volunteer experience has been very rewarding and helped me better understand what I would like to do in the future.

Currently, I am in my <final> semester at <high school or college>. Next semester (Ex. Fall 2006) I plan on attending <college or trade school>. While at college I will study <subject(s)>. Following the completion of my undergraduate program I plan to continue my education in a <program>. Once I complete college I would like to <career>.

In order to finish my education and meet my objective of becoming <desired career>, I am requesting financial assistance. I have very little assets and a limited income from my current job. The purpose for the funding I am requesting is for college tuition, books, living expenses, etc. I am applying for additional grants and scholarships, but I don't know how much funding will be available for me at this time.

As I continue my education, I find that I am in need of generosity. To a company / organization that offers thousands of dollars in scholarships each year, giving out a single scholarship may seem like a small act. However, because I place a high value on my education and my future success, it is an act of generosity that I would deeply treasure.

Thank you for your consideration! I am confident in my abilities to complete my college education and to ensure your support is a worthwhile investment.

Sincerely,  
<Your First Name> <Your Last Name>