

2016 PiE Scholarship Essay Workshop

February 27, 2016

PiE Alumni Scholarship

- Award Amount: **\$2000**
- Eligibility: PiE students in their last year of high school, moving on to postsecondary education
- Application components
 - Short response questions (3x 200 words)
 - Unofficial transcript
 - Teacher recommendation letter (optional)
- Application due Friday April 8th, 2016

PIONEERS IN ENGINEERING



Points of Clarification

- Due date
 - April 8th, 2016
- Submit application online
 - <https://pierobotics.org/programs/scholarship>

How to Respond to the Prompt

- Tell us your story
- Provide some organization
- Be direct and concise
- Try the standard paragraph format
 - Topic introduction - Main Idea
 - Supporting evidence - Examples, details
 - Conclusion

Practice Prompt

“Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?”

Intro

- Begin each answer with a clear topic sentence containing key words to help direct the reader:
 - *One of the most important accomplishments I feel proud of achieving is getting accepted to a computer science grant program for 2013 school year.*

Evidence

- Examples that tie back into your topic idea, detailing how they answer the prompt
 - *As part of the program I helped design an afterschool introductory computer science course for girls at my old elementary school.*

Conclusion

- Provide a concluding sentence that wraps up and summarizes key strengths.
 - *Through the program I was given the opportunity to bring a voice to and raise awareness of expanded access to computer science education for all.*

Example Answer

One of the most important accomplishments I feel proud of achieving is getting accepted to a computer science grant program for 2013 school year. As part of the program I helped design an afterschool introductory computer science course for girls at my old elementary school. I used the \$2,500 grant provided to purchase laptops and phones for the students to use. I then organized my peers from my high school's computer science club to help me develop and teach short computer science lessons and activities using Scratch and App Inventor. I hope to further expand this opportunity to other elementary schools in my area and to also have the students participate in competitions like the Technovation Challenge. Through the program I was given the opportunity to bring a voice to and raise awareness of expanded access to computer science education for all.

Your Turn

Practice Prompt

“Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?”

Example Answer

A personal quality I feel especially proud of is my helpfulness and inclusiveness. It all started in elementary school when I had to change schools. I was so anxious about making friends on my first day. As it turns out, there was nothing to worry about because at least 3 people approached me, introduced themselves, and invited me to play with them. The relief I felt as I made my first new friend made me resolve to give the same feeling of welcomeness to others in my position. I got my chance over the next 2 years as a pair of foreign exchange students transferred into my school. The first chance I had, I approached them, introduced myself, and invited them to be friends with me. I helped both of them learn English, played soccer with one, and formed a homework group with the other. The entire time, I made sure they both felt welcomed in this foreign land and I'm sure they appreciated my efforts the same way I appreciated the people that help me when I moved. That experience serves to remind me that nobody likes to be left out, and it is up to me to help where I can.

Protips

- **General tips**
 - Type up your essay
 - Start early + proofread/spellcheck your writing
 - Start long and cut down
- **Where to go for application help**
 - Teachers / School Counselor
 - PiE Mentors / Staff
- **Recommendation letters**
 - PiE Mentor, Staff, Teacher and/or Counselor
 - Pick someone who knows you well
 - Ask them early on
 - Let them know what they need to do