



Security First Credit Union
Annual Scholarship Program

ESSAY GUIDE

securityfirstcu.com | 956-661-4000



Always Family. Always First.

Scholarship Program



NOT A MEMBER YET? NO PROBLEM!

OPEN YOUR SFCU MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT BY 12/31/20 WITH ONLY \$5.00.

Annually, Security First Credit Union (SFCU) awards five \$1,000 scholarships to deserving graduating high school senior members. If you are currently not a member of SFCU and would like to apply for this scholarship opportunity, stop by any of our eight branch locations to open a new account before submitting your application. Our branch locations can be found at securityfirstcu.com.

The Importance of the Essay

As an applicant of the Security First Credit Union annual scholarship program, you are required to submit an essay along with your application and other required documentation. The essay is a vital part of your submission, and all essays are read and scored by the Security First Credit Union Scholarship Committee.

This committee personally reads and scores each essay using a rating scale matrix to ensure a consistent and fair scoring for all applicants. The following criteria will be considered:

THE ESSAY:

- Has a strong focus on the topic.
- Conveys self-motivation.
- Is structured.
- Follows proper grammar structure.
- Contains no misspellings.

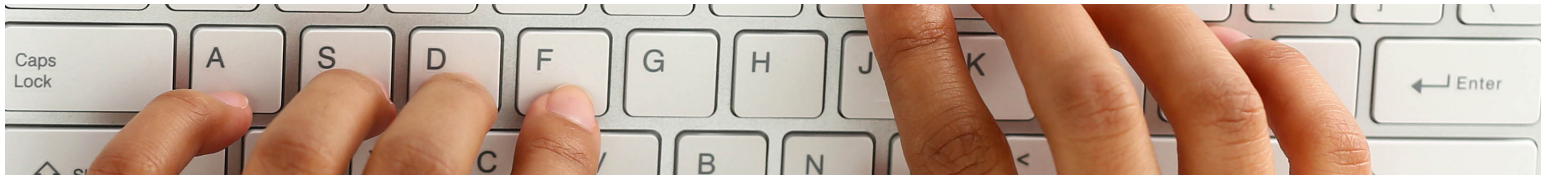
ESSAY QUESTION:



Explain how the environment in which you were raised has shaped you as a person. How do you feel you have contributed to your community, and how you would apply the credit union's philosophy of "People Helping People" in today's society?



CRITERIA	OUTSTANDING	EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	FAIR	POOR
Strong Focus of Topic	5	4	3	2	1	0
Self-Motivation	5	4	3	2	1	0
Clear Structure	5	4	3	2	1	0
Grammar and Spelling	5	4	3	2	1	0



The Basics of Essay Writing

As a refresher, below are the basic components of an essay. While working on yours, be sure to keep these key components in mind.

>> INTRODUCTION

The introduction of an essay establishes the essay's topic. It contains some general comments about the subject and your main message. A few pointers to consider when writing your introduction:

- Does the introduction relate to the essay question?
- Does the introduction contain your main message?
 - Tip: The main message, also known as a thesis statement, is 1-2 sentences that describe what the essay is about and how the supporting points will be broken down. These supporting points should be reiterated in the Body of the essay in the same order.

>> BODY

The Body of an essay contains the main points, known as subtopics. Subtopics describe and support the essay's main points. Here is where you will write 1-2 paragraphs discussing your first point and so on. A few things to keep in mind:

- For the Security First Credit Union scholarship essay, you can include personal stories or Personal example to support your point.
- The last sentence of the paragraph should be transitional and take the reader into the next point.

>> CONCLUSION

The conclusion of an essay is the last paragraph and is used to summarize statements, a reiteration of your main message, and include your final thoughts.

>> FINAL REVIEW AND EDITING

Before submitting your essay, it is best to review it once completed. This is the time to make any changes or corrections. Other things to keep in mind are:

- Proofread
- Read your essay out loud
- Make sure you are following the instructions listed on the Security First Credit Union scholarship application.

For complete scholarship details and to apply, visit [securityfirstcu.com](https://www.securityfirstcu.com) to learn more.

SFCU Products & Services

At Security First Credit Union, we offer a wide array of products and services that will help you to manage your finances and establish healthy financial management habits for a successful future!

- **FREE PLUS CHECKING***, **YOUNG MEMBER CLUB ACCOUNT*** (18 years & younger) and more!
- 24/7 online access with **FREE HOME BANKING**
- 24/7 **TEXT BANKING** and **MOBILE BROWSER** account access
- Access on the go with our **FREE MOBILITI APP**. It's free to download and is available for iOS and Android.
- Go wallet-less with our **FREE DIGITAL WALLET**. Available for **Apple Pay®**, **Google Pay®**, and **Samsung Pay®**.
- **UCHOOSE REWARDS** - register your SFCU debit card for **FREE** at uChooseRewards.com, and you will earn reward points for all signature-based purchases and when shopping online. Learn more at securityfirstcu.com/member-rewards-uchoose.
- On-site **DEPOSIT ATMs**, no-fee ATM access at local neighboring credit unions, and access from all Stripes Convenient Stores (\$1.00 per transaction). Learn more at securityfirstcu.com.
- **POPMONEY®** - **Popmoney** is a personal payment service that allows you a fast and easy way to send (\$0.50 per) and receive money to family, friends, or anyone. All you need is the recipient's name, email address, or mobile number. The money is transferred from your account and directly deposited right into the recipients.



FIRST-TIME AUTO BUYER PROGRAM

Our First-Time Borrower Program is designed for members with little or no established credit, designed explicitly for first-time borrowers and college graduates. Please stop by any of our eight convenient locations and speak with a Security First representative. As your hometown credit union, we want to put YOU FIRST and help drive you into your next life's adventure. Membership is required to apply.

ONLY \$5.00 TO BECOME A MEMBER

Our membership account is called a "share" account* because when you open an account, you automatically own a share in Security First Credit Union.

- It only takes \$5 to open and maintain the account*.
- You'll earn quarterly dividends on your deposits.
- You can receive monthly or quarterly account statements (based on account type).
- You can also open Sub-Share Accounts. A Sub-Share Account* allows you to have separate savings accounts for specific savings goals, like a first-car or college.
- Plus, you will enjoy 24/7 account access with our electronic services.

*Terms and conditions apply. Please visit our website or contact us at 956-661-4000, opt. 7, for complete account details.

