

2017 ‘WOMEN EVERYWHERE’
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

The WOMEN EVERYWHERE (“WE”) College Scholarship Program awards scholarships of \$2,000 to qualified high school graduates. To be eligible for these scholarships, students must be enrolled in college full-time in the school year following graduation, and they and their high schools must be participants in the WE Education Day Programs scheduled for **April 27 and 28, 2017**, depending upon which courthouse your school is assigned to visit.

The scholarships are awarded to students based upon demonstrated involvement in and commitment to the community (high school and/or home community), academic achievement and a written essay. **Please read the instructions thoroughly before completing and sending in your materials. A complete application must include the following items:**

1. a completed and signed WOMEN EVERYWHERE college scholarship application form which is included with your application package;
2. a typed essay of no fewer than 500 and no more than 750 words, double-spaced on the topic of our theme for 2017: **A CONFIDENT YOU = SUCCESS**. Please see the essay guidelines for details, including information about the 2017 theme that recognizes the importance of self-confidence to achieving personal success and to embracing the diversity of possibilities that might be available to you—and to any student or young woman—in your educational, career and personal pursuits.
3. an official high school transcript or photocopy of an official transcript; and
4. two letters of recommendation from high school teachers. Please submit letters from teachers of substantive courses taken in your junior or senior year. In place of one of those letters, you may substitute a letter of recommendation from a community official who knows you through your work on a community-based or faith-based project, provided that your contact with that person is extensive enough, for at least one year, so that he or she is able to describe the project(s) in which you participated and to comment upon your skills, interests, level of commitment and character. The community reference must include that person’s contact information and the organization with which he or she is affiliated.

DEADLINE: Your completed application and essay must be postmarked **no later than May 30, 2017.** Scholarship application materials should be mailed to:

WOMEN EVERYWHERE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

c/o Sarah Buck

Hays Firm LLC

55 W. Wacker Drive, 14th Floor

Chicago, IL 60601

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FAXED MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**2017 'WOMEN EVERYWHERE' COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION FORM**

Instructions: Please answer each question completely and accurately. Where necessary, use additional pages to complete your answers, noting on the pages the number of the question to which you are responding. If a question is not applicable, please write 'N/A' in the blank space. Please attach your essay to this application. **Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.**

1. PERSONAL:

Last Name/First Name/Middle

Current Address: City/State/Zip Code/Telephone #

Permanent Address: City/State/Zip Code/Telephone #

Please checkmark where you would like any award notification sent to you:

Current Address Permanent Address Other (provide address below):

Parents/guardians: _____

Current Address: City/State/Zip Code/Telephone #

2. EDUCATION

College/University that you expect to attend: _____

Name of High School and expected date of graduation: _____

Please also indicate, by circling its name above, that your school participated in courtroom tours during the April 27 and April 28, 2017 Women Everywhere Education Day Program.

3. AWARDS and HONORS

List any awards, honors, scholarships, and/or prizes or recognitions that you have received:

4. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

List extra-curricular activities (school and community based) in which you have participated:

(PLEASE TURN OVER FOR REMAINDER OF FORM)

5. HOBBIES, SPECIAL INTERESTS

List your hobbies or special interests:

6. OTHER INFORMATION: We encourage everyone to apply. While your grades matter, you may have participated in a variety of activities that reflect a positive character and a strong commitment to helping others. Please tell us about them, and/or any other facts or circumstances (financial or otherwise) which you think WOMEN EVERYWHERE should know or which might be useful in evaluating your application, using additional pages if necessary.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY: All information contained in, and submitted with, this application will be treated as confidential except as necessary to verify information.

8. CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPH AND PUBLISH: WE may wish to publish photographs or portions of student essays on its website and in other materials. If you and your parent or guardian consent to such publication, please sign below indicating consent. Whether you consent will not affect WE scholarship decisions.

9. SIGNATURE: I understand that the WOMEN EVERYWHERE College Scholarship Program will rely on the information contained in this application. The above statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: _____ Signature of applicant: _____

Consent to photograph and publish:

Applicant: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____

WOMEN EVERYWHERE: Theme for Essay of Scholarship Application

The Theme for the Essay component of the 2017 Women Everywhere Scholarship Application is: **A CONFIDENT YOU = SUCCESS**. This theme was chosen from a long list of potential themes related to girls and young women and the importance of self-esteem and self-respect as they mature and make choices about their educational pursuits, the career paths they might follow and their futures as members of a family and of friendship, peer and workplace groups.

HOW THE 2017 THEME MIGHT BE INTERPRETED: The theme's simplicity suggests numerous directions the participating students can go with the concept. For example, 'Success' as used in the theme title can be broadly construed. Thus, it doesn't have to be about pursuing a leadership role which may not suit or be the goal of every student who participates in the WE court tours and wishes to apply for a WE scholarship. Additionally, the word 'Confident' can encompass a number of emotional, psychological and mental states and is broader than some perceive the term 'self-esteem' to encompass, although self-esteem contributes to confidence. It is also focused on the student herself. This means that YOU, as the high school student reading this very page, can define what confidence means to you personally.

You are also free to identify, as your inspirational role models, different expressions of confidence within the diverse population of women who are public figures, from film, stage and recording performers to CEOs of corporate and other business entities to government leaders and other government officials to women business owners to educators from all levels of academic institutions to activists, advocates, scientists and explorers to those in the helping professions like doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners and other medical professionals—to name just a few broad categories. Additionally, the theme as worded allows for consideration of other, more personal heroines worth analyzing in a scholarship essay, such as inspirational women in your family and friendship circle, in the school setting and in the broader community who serve as mentors and role models for YOU.

Through the broad range of our 'sample' paragraphs for the essay component, we are hoping to spark the imaginations of the student applicants so all will understand that there is a broad range of subjects to consider for their essays. After all, success can be defined in many different ways, depending upon the person pursuing it and her goals, aspirations, interests, talents and persistence—and the support she has from others. Some of our samples might be about women who have chosen a different path than they originally sought or intended or thought they had to pursue because of the expectations of others. But despite the challenges, those women were able to follow that path because they recognized the passion they had for a particular career or position or project and then dared to break out on their own, with or without support from others, and to define for themselves what matters to them and to the people who might benefit from their achieving their dreams.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING ABOUT YOU AND YOUR DREAMS!

SAMPLE ESSAY #1: A CONFIDENT YOU = SUCCESS

This year's essay topic is quite broad, and intentionally so, because we want you to explore in your writing various ways that confidence gives rise to success. We often hear that "life is a journey." What role does confidence play in that journey? There are a number of women who are highly successful, by almost anybody's standards, but who experience what psychologists call "Imposter Syndrome." Essentially, Imposter Syndrome is when a person frequently feels like a fraud. One high-profile sufferer of Imposter Syndrome is Sheryl Sandberg, former Vice President of Global Operations at Google and now CEO of Facebook, and who graduated first in the Economics Department at Harvard University.

At her Phi Beta Kappa induction (Phi Beta Kappa is a very prestigious scholastic honor society) at Harvard, Sandberg listened to a speech entitled "Feeling Like a Fraud." Sandberg later said that "I thought it was the best speech I'd ever heard." She recalled that she felt like that her entire life. Sandberg said that she eventually realized that women experienced tradeoffs between success and likeability. She felt that women used self-doubt as a form of self-defense: people don't like women who boast about their achievements. Have you ever felt like Sheryl Sandberg?

As a final note on Imposter Syndrome, let me say that anyone who looks at Sandberg's monumental level of success would never say she's an imposter. The reason for that is her phenomenal track record at Google and Facebook. So, her feelings of being a fraud do not match the evidence of her career, right? I suspect that if you reviewed that evidence with Sandberg today and asked her if she still felt like a fraud, she may admit "no, not based on the evidence." But, do we always define ourselves based on all of the evidence or do we create our sense of self-judgment that is not grounded on evidence?

How can women move to a more evidence-based assessment of themselves? And what if you're at the start of your career options and so the evidence hasn't accumulated so much yet? What do you do then? Well, what about throwing in some self-compassion? How does self-compassion play a role in developing confidence? We would like to hear your thoughts!

SAMPLE ESSAY #2: COLOR BRAVE

Be color brave, not color blind. That is the message advocated by Mellody Hobson* in her TED talk (talks recorded on videos from expert speakers on a variety of topics and “ideas worth spreading”). Mellody described her mother as “ruthlessly realistic” and an unbelievable role model. Her mother discussed issues of race with Mellody when Mellody was only seven, telling her that people will not always treat her well but also stressing that she could do whatever she set her mind to. Her mother’s pragmatism and hard work inspired Mellody to work hard herself and dream ‘big’. Her mother’s confidence enabled Mellody to have confidence in her ability to achieve her dreams. Not surprisingly, Mellody is now the president of a Chicago based money management firm, Ariel Investments, and she considers her firm’s diversity to be a competitive advantage.

Mellody recognizes that many people are anxious about discussing race and racial discrimination, and she admitted that even she was a little afraid to address race in her TED talk. However, she recognizes the advantage of increased diversity and emphasized that the first step in solving any problem is to not hide from it, and that the first step to action is awareness.

Accepting the idea of color-blindness keeps us from moving forward toward equal rights and equal opportunity. Instead, understanding issues and solving problems relating to discrimination requires people to engage in conversation. Inviting diversity into all aspects of life, both personal and professional, helps our society engage in a dialogue to achieve equality.

Mellody shared her story including instances of racial discrimination to inspire people to be bold and discuss racial discrimination. She displays the confidence and bravery to address race and racial discrimination in order to encourage others to engage in dialogue and embrace diversity. Each of us should always strive to invite diversity into our lives, as this helps us challenge our assumptions and grow as individuals.

So, be confident, be brave, be color brave. Speak up and engage those around you in discussions that you may find uncomfortable. Be an advocate, be a role model, be an ally. You will be amazed at the positive impact you can have.

*Mellody Hobson is an American businesswoman who grew up in Chicago, IL. She is the president of a Chicago based money management firm, Ariel Investments.

TED Talk article: <http://blog.ted.com/be-color-brave-not-color-blind-mellody-hobson-at-ted2014/>

Biography: <https://www.arielinvestments.com/our-team/>

SAMPLE ESSAY #3: BILLIE HOLIDAY

If you google 'Billie Holiday', you will learn that she is considered a 'legendary' jazz vocalist who performed for three decades, produced over 100 albums, was famous for introducing many songs that remain influential today, that she struggled for years with alcohol and drug addiction, and that she died in 1959 at the age of 44. Upon further digging into her tragically short life, you'll also discover a creative, beautiful and determined African-American songstress who, despite all odds and a tormented childhood, a lack of good parenting, sexual victimization and imprisonment for prostitution at the age of fourteen, found an inner strength that drove her to express her substantial talent and to fight until the end of her life against a federal government campaign aimed at silencing her forever.

Ms. Holiday (whose birth name was Eleanora Fagan) was ruthlessly targeted by Harry Anslinger, the head of the Bureau of Narcotics. Why? Because she was black, sang 'jazz' (which Anslinger hated because it was the mainstay of black musicians and 'chaotic'), was a known drug addict and introduced the song 'Strange Fruit' to the public. By a metaphor, that song referenced the history of the lynching of blacks from the branches of trees, equating the dead bodies with fruit hanging from those trees. When Anslinger ordered Billie Holiday to stop singing 'Strange Fruit', she took a stand against his attempt at repressing the truth about this country's treatment of African-Americans during slavery and beyond.

Determined to hunt Holiday like a criminal, Anslinger found her in the hospital and handcuffed her to her bed, and then interfered with her treatment for drug withdrawal and ordered that she be denied food and drink. Within days, Anslinger accomplished his mission with the death of Holiday. Anslinger's distorted brand of confidence in his pursuit to destroy Holiday and her influence resulted in history recognizing him as a demonic racist while history has recognized and extended respect for Billie Holiday because of her determination to remain a voice for truth, and for publically urging, during her own struggle, that addiction must be considered as an illness and treated accordingly. That, in the end, is the more positive and enduring view of the importance of SELF CONFIDENCE and a different way of judging an individual's 'success' in life.

SAMPLE ESSAY #4: ROSIE THE RIVETER

Possibly you have heard of *Rosie the Riveter*. She was the woman who appeared under the slogan “We Can Do It!” on a widely distributed, brightly colored poster created during the early days of World War II. Rosie, not a real person but a colorfully drawn image of a woman, is shown from the waist up, with a bandana on her head and dressed in a blue work shirt with its sleeves rolled up. Rosie looks serious AND she is flexing the muscles in her right arm. This image was meant to represent the real women who answered their country’s call to duty when millions of men went off to war across the ocean and left empty spaces in many factories and other industrial workplaces. Most importantly, many of those women worked in defense industries, assuring that war supplies for battle would continue to be available. Although ‘Rosie’ is a portrait, her image and what she was meant to portray—a strong, confident and determined female laborer—is also based upon real-life women who stepped up to fill the void, believing in themselves and, for the first time in their lives, performing quite well the technical and manual labor required of them, whether riveting, drilling or operating various machines.

Since that challenging time, many have speculated that the phenomenon of thousands of women, particularly housewives accustomed to running the household and not working in a factory, was one of the early inspirations for the feminist movement that took off in the 1960s and 1970s. For certain, the fact that WOMEN kept the country running during the four year war while also raising their children and managing their households—often pooling their resources to help one another—demonstrated that females had significant talents and skills and, with confidence, could master new ones when necessary and when given the opportunity. Moreover, their contributions during this stressful period in U.S. history meant that they could even do much of the work that people, especially the men in charge of government, corporations and various industries, had long believed only men could perform.

Rosie the Riveter proved that women can do anything they believe is possible. Unfortunately, many of those women who had to leave those jobs when the men returned from war and reclaimed their positions did so reluctantly, or if they stayed were paid less than the men and endured terrible working conditions. Now, more than 70 years later, things haven’t changed for a lot of women in the labor force but Rosie remains a motivating force.

You can read more about Rosie and her real-life counterparts at www.anb.org/articles. Another good source of information and for variations on the Rosie poster images is: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosie_the_Riveter
Also try: www.rosietheriveter.net