



## Plastics Pioneers Association (PPA) Scholarship Application Guidelines

There are two parts to our scholarship application:

- 1) Objective elements: GPA, year in school, degree program, etc. < 50% of the score
- 2) Subjective elements: Essay and Letters of Recommendation (LOR) > 50% of the score

**A quality Essay and descriptive LORs can improve your chance of getting a scholarship.**

**ESSAY** reviewers want to learn who you are and how well you express yourself.

Important aspects of your essay:

- Good grammar, spelling, syntax, language, vocabulary, and organization that demonstrate your communication skills
- How/why did you become interested in plastics?
- What experience have you acquired working in plastics, and what most intrigued you? If you have yet to gain experience, what plans do you have to acquire experience?
- Why is the \$3,000 PPA scholarship important to you, with specific reference to:
  - What is the total dollar amount of student loans you currently have (you and your family)?
  - Note any relevant personal or family hardship issues.
  - Note any anomalies in your transcript or unique challenges that affect your school activities, e.g., a break in your education for military service, medical issues, or physical ability compromises (hard of hearing, sight challenges, etc.). Please explain the circumstances.
- Personal and family interests away from school

To improve readability, ask professors, counselors, peers, and family to help craft, proofread, and critique your essay.

Through your **Letters of Recommendation** our Review Team seeks to learn more about you and how others perceive you. They are a significant part of your score.

Things to consider for your **LORs**:

- Give a lot of thought about whom to ask for an LOR. Ideally, have a face-to-face conversation, detailing what you are requesting and stressing what matters most are their observations and impressions of you.
- Have your recommender describe how they are connected to you.
- Ideally, they will recount your specific accomplishments and contributions while taking their class(es) or working under their supervision.
- Of particular interest are examples highlighting your leadership skills and independent initiative.
- Ask your recommender to go beyond the “shows up for class” type of statements, and to not simply repeat information included in your CV/Resumé.
- **The more in-depth, insightful, and personal, the better.**
- Professors, counselors, plastics professionals, internship, and apprenticeship contacts who know you well, are the best individuals to ask for LORs.

Please don't hesitate to share these guidelines with your network.