

J.O. SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

Get Organized.

- Make a list of scholarships you plan to apply for (* NOTE DEADLINES)
- Consider using a calendar/graphic organizer to help you visualize and plan your time-management for scholarship applications while making note of the scholarship deadlines.
 - This is helpful as scholarship opportunities are available year-round!

Apply Early.



- Do not wait until the last minute to apply! ○ **Remember: Scholarships are competitive!** You want to give yourself lots of time to prepare an excellent application
 - Many external organizations short-list applications as they come in.
 - Note that scholarships that require you to physically mail in your application will require an extra 3-5 business days for your application to arrive, so factor in the possibility of postal delays
 - **Scholarship deadlines are firm!** ○ **Submitting your application even a minute late can disqualify you**
- Remember: Scholarships are awarded to outstanding students who demonstrate that they are capable and responsible. (Submitting a late application reflects poorly on you)

Read the instructions and eligibility carefully.

- Different scholarships will have different eligibility requirements.
 - Read and understand the instructions before you begin your application



Proofread your application before you submit.

- **Again, scholarships are competitive!** Spelling and grammar are important!
- Double check to ensure that you have included all the necessary information and any additional documentation that is required (i.e. reference letters, academic resume, etc.) ○ Your ability to follow instructions for the scholarship is important!

Start building connections.

- If you haven't already done so, you need to start making and building connections with teachers, supervisors, employers, etc. who can act as a reference for some of your scholarship applications.
 - This is your responsibility. No one can make/build these connections for you so get going on this ASAP! Do not put this off until the last minute because relationships take time.
- **References (Also see Reference Letter Etiquette Guide in MS Teams Scholarship Channel)** ○ The rule of thumb is to ask individuals who know you well and who have known you for an extended period of time.
 - Some scholarships may ask for a reference from particular people, so check the requirements ○ Recent references are always better (i.e. asking your Gr.11 teacher for reference will be better than asking your Gr. 3 teacher)
 - Don't make the selection committee question why your letter is several years old and out of context for what you are applying for.



Apply, apply, apply!

- There is no limit to the number of external scholarships you can apply for.
- Applying to lots of scholarships gives you a better chance of winning a scholarship (and many external scholarships are not given out each year ... so look around for them)



“You can't win if you don't apply”

Scholarship opportunities will be posted to the **Gr. 12 @ John Oliver Secondary Teams** under the **Scholarships Channel** as they become available.