

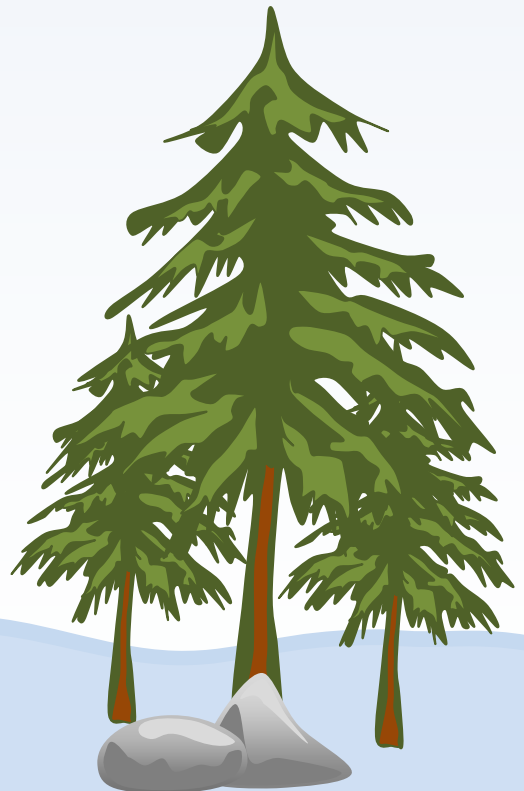
10 Simple Things You Can Be Grateful for Even When Times are Tough

by HENRIK EDBERG

- 1. A roof over my head and a warm home.**
- 2. Plenty of drinkable water.**
- 3. I don't have to go hungry.**
- 4. I can enjoy the small and free pleasures of life.**
- 5. Access to the internet.**
- 6. My friends and family.**
- 7. My health.**
- 8. The kindness of people I have never met before.**
- 9. The setbacks that have formed me and made me stronger.**
- 10. I am alive.**

Happy Thanksgiving!!!!!!

I hope each and every one of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!! I hope we are all thankful for the many things we have in our lives! I know that I am and when I look at this list and I can add another 10, I need to be thankful!!! See how many more you can add!





SENIOR SUCCESS

TOP 10 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SENIOR YEAR

Before you know it, you will be walking down the aisle in your cap and gown on graduation day. How can you successfully navigate senior year, balancing academic responsibilities with the college application process? We asked the recent winners of the NHS Scholarship what they would recommend. Consider their top 10 tips:

1. **Prioritize.** Make sure you keep your priorities in order amid academics, work, sports, other commitments, and—yes—sleep! Remember, sandwiched in with this you will be managing the college search and application process.
2. **Don't procrastinate.** Senior year requires good time-management skills. It's easy to put things off until the last minute, but don't become a victim of "senioritis" and let grades slip.
3. **Communicate.** Talk with your counselor and teachers—they can become your allies, your mentors, and your support network. This communication will prepare your counselor and teachers to write recommendation letters.
4. **Prepare.** Whether you will be heading directly into the workforce, taking a gap year, or moving on to college, you will need a résumé. Remember to keep track of all your volunteer and work experience, school activities, and achievements. You want to stand out among those competing for a job or space at your college of choice.
5. **Be organized.** Use a planner, whether it's on your phone or something you carry around. This will help you stay on top of class due dates, school and community activities, and those all-important college and scholarship application deadlines.

And speaking of college and scholarship applications ...

6. **Apply for college AND scholarships early.** Start the application process as soon as you can. Don't wait until the last minute to submit your application, as it might not stand out when piled in with dozens—or even thousands—of others who have waited until the deadline.
7. **Ask for recommendations early.** Most college applications require a recommendation from a teacher and counselor. Ask your teacher and

counselor for yours well ahead of your classmates. Remember, they have their job to do, too, so respect their time.

8. **Remember the "you" in university.** College is about you and your future. Be sure to look for colleges that genuinely interest YOU—not your family, relatives, or friends.

Finding the right fit often means visiting campuses, so be sure to budget time to do so. Consider the cost that might be involved with such trips. Visit schools during open houses or, even better, spend the night to determine how the experience feels. Social media might be a good resource for your search process, too.

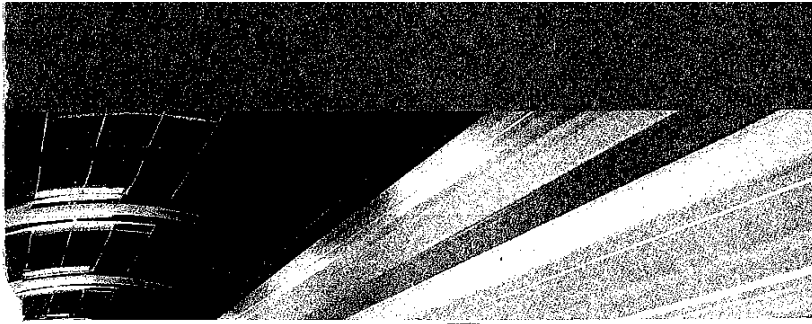
9. **Be informed about financial aid and scholarships.** Do your homework and find out what's available. Apply for as many scholarships as you can. Who knows? You might wind up being awarded some much-needed financial assistance just for asking!
10. **Find time to relax.** You need time to recharge your batteries. Plan your time so you can connect with friends, participate in social activities, and savor those once-in-a-lifetime senior year experiences.

College and Scholarship Search Tools and Apps

Consider using these college and scholarship search engines and apps suggested by members of the Class of 2017:

- College Board
- Scholly
- Fastweb
- Chegg
- Scholarships.com

Also, the National Honor Society (NHS) offers its members a scholarship search tool, Scholar Dollars, through which results can be filtered based on the membership pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Visit www.nhs.us/scholardollars.



YOUR FUTURE IS **BRIGHT**

PREPARING YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND ESSAYS

Take heed of this advice from freshly minted high school graduates, now college freshmen, about preparing your college applications and writing essays.

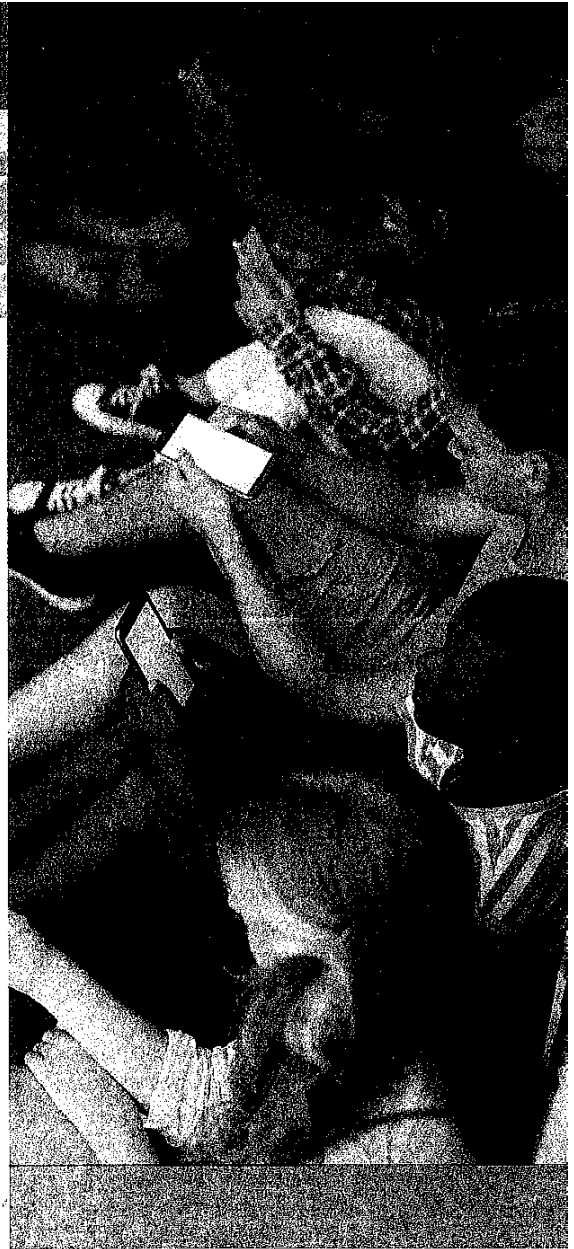
"Do not put stuff on your application unless it is something you're passionate about. Colleges will be able to tell if you put stuff on your application, like community service projects you did one time for 30 minutes and never thought about doing again, and it easily could hurt more than help."

"Try to finish the common app before school starts and think about which schools (you) want to apply to early. A lot of merit and honors college deadlines are earlier than the applications to the school, and being able to have the option of applying is better than waiting."

"Tailor your college essays to the colleges you are applying to. If you really care about a certain college, take the time to mention specific things about that college in your essay."

"Find someone to edit your essays. Even if you are a good writer, it is difficult to edit your own papers. Find someone who knows you well, and ask them to edit your essays. This is not just for grammatical errors. Have them ensure that you are answering the question fully."

"Ensure that you don't rush to finish writing your essay, but instead spend time going over each sentence and **making sure your entire essay aligns with your thoughts and personality.** I suggest you read some essays from admitted students online (<http://tinyurl.com/collegeessayex>); however, please don't read too many. Soon, their ideas and writing style may overpower yours and you may try to fake your essay's genuineness by modeling it off another student's work. If you decide that your essay is like a narration of your journey from childhood to adulthood, try to watch films ... and analyze how a script progresses. I rewatched Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy, and after analyzing themes, scenes, and powerful moments throughout the film, I tried outlining my own essay with those ideas in mind. For example, my own essay showed the ups and downs of my life, which led me to the climactic moment of realizing that adversity was part of my adventure (like a Batman movie). My point is that you can read other essays for inspiration, but try to find inspiration from movies or anything else you enjoy!"



DID YOU KNOW...

National Honor Society students can watch virtual college application essay writing workshops? These highly interactive, hands-on sessions feature writing prompts so you can walk away with solid tips for preparing a satisfying finished product. Watch any of them on demand at your convenience. Visit www.nhs.us/virtualNHS.

PARTICIPATION STATION