

## **HEART OF OAK 2005 SCHOLARSHIP**

### **TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR HEART OF OAK SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY**

Think of the essay as an advertisement about you. The best essays tell a story that gives the reader an understanding of who you are. The essay does not have to be the story of your whole life, just a small snapshot of it.

#### ***Before you start writing - think about what you might say about yourself...***

- Scribble down a list of experiences and accomplishments. Don't just put down things you would put on a resume – think of examples from your school, job, family, personal life, community, etc. What stories do you share with friends? What events from the past still linger in your thoughts today? What has changed you recently?
- Talk to other people. What would they include in your biography? What do you think makes you a special/cool/good person?
- Have you ever struggled hard for something and succeeded? What made you successful? Have you ever struggled hard for something and failed? How did you respond?
- What was the most difficult time in your life, and why? How did your perspective on life change as a result of the difficulty?
- Simply reflect. What is important to you? What gets you excited or moves you to act? What do you hope to accomplish?

#### **Use the writing process as a vehicle for discovery.**

- Consider writing several different drafts. Experiment.
- Some students start by outlining the points they intend to make - this makes filling in the details easier.
- Try banging out a draft within some set time limit (like thirty minutes). Read it later to look for gems twinkling amid the rocks.
- Have someone else read it. Does it sound like you? Do they think it gets your personality across?

#### **Remember to check over your essay.**

- Be sure to spell check and grammar check.
- Get someone to proofread it.
- The best essays are the ones that are memorable. Be creative!
- Do you like it? Are you proud of it?