

Application essays for the DSI scholarship competition at Wichita State:

Tell us about your educational goals while at WSU and your intended career goals after graduation. You can include why you chose your intended major and any special interests, talents, goals or unique experiences which led to the future career choice. If you have not narrowed to a specific major, describe your possible interests and goals. *(limit to 500 words)*

In the world today, it seems that every high school senior looks to higher education with the same pair of eyes and sees an image of a piece of paper that allows him or her to make money. Although I too looked at university that way in the past, my educational goals for my time at Wichita State have extended beyond simply acquiring a degree: they include focusing my interests, learning about my future career, and learning about myself. Biomedical engineering, my intended major, has become a strong interest of mine over the past two years due to my focus on both medicine and technology. This feels like the correct choice for both my skillset and my personality. I have worked within a long-term care facility as a certified nurse's aide for over a year, and I have seen how incredibly important healthcare technology is to maintaining the quality of life and happiness for many people whose bodies' have begun to age or have been injured. From pacemakers to extensive machinery and gadgets that allow for ease of living, I have seen the importance and impact of biomedical engineering in our world. Biomedical engineers work as teams, a skill that I have honed in the many clubs, activities, and projects I have participated in. I have held leadership roles in my school's student council, learned to follow directions in athletics, and cooperated with my peers in planning and executing three major fundraising projects. Throughout high school, I have taken six advanced biology and medical classes to expose myself to the material in my intended career, and I feel that I am prepared for the next step of my learning: college education. Looking into the required classes for my degree, I feel confident in my ability to succeed and am excited by the depth of knowledge offered throughout my classes.

During my time at Wichita State, I aspire to learn about my future profession and to grow as an individual by leaving my comfort zone and working with new peers. As with every graduating senior, I have been studying and working with the same individuals in the same organizations for many years and have settled within my own small world of connections. I look forward to meeting and cooperating with many new classmates and professors within my major and becoming involved in several

organizations and activities that Wichita State has to offer, including the honors college and potentially, the student government. Joining these new organizations and working together with classmates will allow me to meet and work with people from different backgrounds with different social habits than myself, and may allow me to find peers whose goals and personalities complement my own. By doing this, I plan to reach outside my comfort zone and become a true Shocker! Wichita State has been the destination for higher education throughout my family's history, and I am excited by the prospects of attending next fall to begin accomplishing my educational and personal goals.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." – John Quincy Adams. Tell us how you are inspiring others through your leadership and what advice you would give someone who is assuming a leadership position for the first time. (limit to 500 words)

I have spent three years in leadership positions working with peers and organizing events, but until last year I believe I had a misguided outlook on what leadership truly means. Before then, I would have had plenty of instances where I merely asked people to do tasks, but I cannot think of a time I inspired anyone. This changed during my time in the Shocker Leadership Academy my junior year, when I visited the Kansas Leadership Center and discussed what it really means to be a leader. It was there my mindset changed dramatically. I began to realize that leading was not simply giving orders or gathering help; it involved bringing the best out of people and catalyzing positive cooperation. With this new knowledge, I returned to my leadership positions and have attempted to bring out the best in my peers for the past year. In that time, I have acted as a role model for younger cross-country teammates by never giving up during practice or in class, showing them the value of hard work in athletics and academics, encouraged fellow student-council members to pursue new ideas by being open and supportive, and promoted community involvement among my peers by explaining the importance and satisfaction gained through volunteering and working to cultivate a community centered mindset.

To someone assuming a leadership position for the first time, I would make it clear to them that if they seek the leadership position to control and change people, they should reconsider their goals. Not only because this breeds contempt between a leader

and a peer, but as I have learned, those who put themselves above the ones they lead often become disconnected from any potential ideas or growth that may arise from their peers. A successful leader should become a catalyst for those around them and inspire them to accomplish something they may not have deemed possible. By supporting their peers in this way, a leader gains respect and trust, which can be used to further inspire those around them. I would also advise that they not make leadership a competition. Over the years, I have seen more than enough battles for control over a specific group or project, which always results in the individuals feeling discouraged or angry. Sometimes, a good leader needs to know when to step back and allow others the chance to prove themselves. Times like those can allow you to see strengths and weaknesses that you otherwise may never have seen, and as a leader, it should be your goal to help others grow and learn about themselves. I would share these key points with any young leader who hopes to inspire and support the world around them. A wise leader does not fight for control or to control, rather, a leader fights to help others achieve their goals and grow as individuals.