Sample Essay Outline: Your NSCC Student Awards Essay

It is common to write an essay or personal statement when applying for a student award. This is a sample outline for a student awards essay. For this outline, we will use this question as an example:

Provide us with an overview of: why you chose your program/field of study; your career aspirations, and why you believe you will succeed in your chosen profession upon graduation.

Introduction (3 – 6 sentences)
• Grab the reader’s attention in 1 – 2 sentences. You can use a quote, a description, a question, etc.
• Write a thesis statement (1 sentence). Tell the reader which award you’re applying for.
• Briefly explain the reasons why you should receive the award (1-3 sentences)

Supporting Paragraph 1 (5 – 8 sentences)
• Why did you choose your program/field of study?
• Transition into this paragraph from the introduction. For help with transitions, click here.
• Write a paragraph answering this question. Be specific. Explain what led you to choose your NSCC program. Give examples and explanations about your choice and why you are happy with your choice.

Supporting Paragraph 2 (5 – 8 sentences)
• What are your career aspirations?
• Transition into this paragraph. For help with transitions, visit the link above.
• Write a paragraph answering this question. Again, be specific. What motivates you? What do you want to do for a career? Why do you want that career? Do you want to make a difference? How do you want to make a difference? What excites you about this field? Give examples and explanations about your aspirations.

Supporting Paragraph 3 (5 – 8 sentences)
• Why do you believe you’ll succeed in your chosen profession when you graduate?
• Transition into this paragraph. For help with transitions, visit the link above.
• Write a paragraph answering this question. Be specific. What sets you apart and makes you unique? How do your skills and your motivation contribute to your success? What steps have you taken to help make you successful? Give examples and explanations about your skills, motivation, and interests that will help you achieve success.

Conclusion (3 – 5 sentences)
• Summarize
  o Restate your thesis statement
  o Write summary sentences for your three supporting paragraphs (3 sentences)
• Make a closing statement about why you should receive the reward

Remember: No new information should be written in your conclusion!