

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Essay

The Goldwater Scholarship requires that applicants submit an essay of up to 3 pages as a part of the online application. The following information is taken directly from the Goldwater Scholarship instructions and is being provided to assist students in their applications:

*“Your Research Essay is one area of the application where you will be able to demonstrate these characteristics. The strongest Research Essays students submit are based on a prior research project. Your essay should include a description of the issue or problem, a discussion of the research methodology, and discussion of your findings. When writing an essay on a past research experience, it is important that you clearly state what **YOUR** specific contributions to the project were and indicate what specific skills/expertise you developed. To demonstrate that you “think like a scientist,” you might, as an example, describe future work your data suggests or work that still needs to be done to complete the current project.*

If you have not been involved in a research project, you can develop your Research Essay on a “proposed” research project. In this case, you will want to put forward a possible research problem, discuss an idea for a research project that could have a significant impact on the issue or problem, describe the methodology that you would use and discuss anticipated results. Again, the reviewers will be reading your nomination materials attempting to determine the likelihood that you will pursue a research career. It is again in your interest to work to convince the reviewers that you have the characteristics that are needed to become a research scientist, mathematician or engineer.

Your Research Essay should include appropriate bibliographic information and references.

Research Essay Formatting Guidelines: *Your essay may be single or double spaced and use 12 point or larger Arial or Times New Roman font. Margins should be 1inch on all sides. Page length should not exceed 3 pages. Your essay must include your name and the name of your academic institution at the top of each page. Save your Research Essay as a PDF file. Although the upload site accepts JPG and PNG file formats, PDF files are preferred.”*

Completed essays should be uploaded to the Goldwater online application.