



## Scholarship Contest Winner

**Kelcie Pung**

**Fowler High School**

**Essay Topic: If you could create a new course to teach in high schools, what would it be and why would it be beneficial to students?**

Every year, thousands of dollars in scholarship opportunities have been lost by millions of high school seniors due to a lack of knowledge and overwhelming uncertainties about future endeavors. I know that I am not alone in my doubts about deciding on a future dream and paying for the education necessary to live it out. As a high school senior who spends most of their day taking electives to “fill the schedule,” I often ponder the idea of a more meaningful use of my time. If given the chance to create a beneficial class for high school students, I would generate a curriculum focused solely on scholarships, career search, resume building, and college decisions. Instead of spending time worrying about right and wrong decisions, high schoolers would have the opportunity to discover their potential and most fulfilling goals.

One of the most important factors when it comes to future plans is discovering the necessary steps to chasing a dream. Whether the plan is to jump into the workforce immediately following high school, attending college, or studying trades, each carries a unique process. My created class would walk high school juniors or seniors through important preparation steps such as scheduling and attending visits, creating a strong resume, and understanding the credentials necessary for careers. I would offer hands-on opportunities in the workplace of the student's desire. Interactive experiences would provide guidance in narrowing down options and feeling confident in the decision making process. Money and time, which are already limited, would no longer be wasted trying to search for a satisfactory path.

On top of education and athletics, I have spent hundreds of hours working to financially prepare for my future. With the rising cost of college, my savings will not come close to covering multiple years of expenses. When questioned about scholarship opportunities or how to fill out the FAFSA, I was instantly overwhelmed and perplexed. I felt as if opportunities were out of reach or even unheard of. Little did I know, I could earn thousands of dollars in scholarships by either answering questions regarding personal accomplishments, or writing papers with passion. If I had a class guiding me to and through scholarship opportunities, I would feel secure with my ability to establish a firm financial foundation. Families who are not familiar with government aid such as FAFSA would have the opportunity to walk through the forms with help in my created class. Just like other areas of life, a sense of security allows one to put the best version of themselves forward.

At the end of the day, the chapter following high school is one of the most important decisions in life. A class guiding high school students in the right direction is crucial. If the main goal of our journey on Earth is to discover and express the best version of ourselves, we need the resources to do so. My curriculum would allow students to feel prepared and set up for success. Our world needs confident individuals who are living their dream and chasing their goals. As a future teacher, I have the power to change the direction of the education system. For the millions of high school students feeling uncertain about the future, I hope to shed light on the endless opportunities that are within reach.

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