**2019-2020 Beedie Luminaries Scholarship Recipients from Delview**

**Nimmy Sebastian**

**Obviously, grades were important, but what types of extracurriculars did you list in the application?**

I can't stress enough how important extra curriculars were for me.  My grades weren't the best and that made me very scared to apply for scholarships because I had this idea in my head that the kids with the highest grades get scholarships. Applying to Beedie Luminaries and so many other scholarships in my grade 12 year really taught me the importance of extra curriculars and the holistic approach they take to choosing their scholarship recipients. So if you're in a similar boat and you feel like your grades aren't good enough, please just put yourself out there and show them why you deserve this scholarship. As for my extra curriculars, one of my strongest ones was being the president of my First Responders team. If you have leadership experience of any sort I would definitely put that in, it can make your application a lot stronger. When listing your extra curriculars show a good variety of activities. I listed activities like being part of the volleyball team, organizing mental health workshops, volunteering in the community, etc… Having good extra curriculars is important but what is even more important is connecting those experiences with what the scholarship is looking for. While you are writing about the different obstacles you faced and the experiences you had with your extra curriculars, tie it back to the scholarship criteria. Show them how overcoming that situation made you resilient, keep the criteria of the scholarship in front of you while you are writing! For example, I talked about how I started in the First Responders team as a member and worked my way up to a higher position. Make each experience your own and show them why it makes you the best fit for the scholarship.

**How did you answer the essay question?**

I drew from experiences that showed my resilience. I talked about moving to different countries as a kid, growing up without a father and how I faced these obstacles. Hardships look different for everyone, as long as you can connect it back to how it shaped you into the person you are today, your essay will be strong. Be specific, you can include an example or a personal story to illustrate what you are trying to say. I would not recommend writing it in one sitting, take a day to just think about what you want to write before you start. Proofread your essay yourself and get others to read it over as well. Try to make the essay personal, talk about what makes you you, that’s what they want to see!

**What were some of the questions asked in the interview? How did you prepare for it?**

Some of the questions they asked me was “What do you think your community needs amidst this pandemic?”, “What do you bring to your cohort?” and “What do you plan to do in the next four years along with completing your degree?”. I could not have prepared answers for the specific questions they asked but the set of sample questions Ms. Abad provided me helped me practice thinking of answers quickly. In order to prepare for this interview, practice answering some interview questions out loud, think about how you are going to integrate resilience (criteria) into your answers and go into the interview with confidence and a big smile! The judging panel was very friendly and they are really just there to have a conversation with you. Be honest with your answers and don’t worry too much about what they are going to think of your answers because there are no wrong answers!

**Why do you think you won the scholarship? What do you believe sets you apart from other students who applied?**

I feel that I was able to connect the experiences I had to resilience and really show my improvement as a person. I included personal stories when I was talking about the hardships I faced and I think that made my application unique. I focused on how each experience made me better instead of how it negatively affected me. I included how the skills and tools I gained from overcoming certain obstacles will make me put the scholarship money to good use. I clearly stated my future goals and proved to them that investing in my education and future is worthwhile. I wouldn’t say there was anything extra-ordinary or outstanding that made me the best candidate, but showing them what I have achieved so far despite of everything I have faced and what I am capable of achieving with their help is the reason I won the scholarship.

**If you could go back in time, knowing what you know now, what would you tell your former self upon preparing for the application?**

Get other people to read your answers! They should be able to understand exactly what you are trying to tell them just by reading your paragraph. Take out the “fluff” and be straightforward! If that sentence does not make you answer stronger, take it out. Be confident, you need to believe that you deserve the scholarship before you can convince someone else to give it to you!

**Would you recommend students to apply for the scholarship? If so, what advice would you give them upon applying?**

Yes!!! Please apply for the Beedie Luminaries scholarship. It has changed my life in the best way possible. This scholarship goes beyond financial assistance, it has connected me with amazing and like-minded peers. We have stay-on-track mentors/coaches that help you succeed in all aspects of life. The people running this amazing program truly care about each student and provide amazing opportunities. Despite only winning the scholarship a couple of months ago, I feel so connected with the Beedie community. We have calls, mixers, photoshoots and overall, I have had a great experience so far.

**Is there anything else you’d like to add or mention?**

This applies to all scholarships but APPLY!! If you are eligible, fill out the application and apply! I know it takes a lot of time to fill them out but trust me, it’s worth putting that effort in now. Some scholarship organization will recognize what you have to offer but you have to put yourself out there first! If you have any questions or want me to proofread your answers, feel free to email me at **nimmyvinod02@gmail.com** **:**) All the best**!**

**Majka Pauchly**

**Obviously, grades were important, but what types of extracurriculars did you list in the application?**

The ones that I listed were playing trumpet in the school band, volunteering as a tutor and running a STEM club for elementary school students, doing WEX at a pharmacy and summer camp.

**How did you answer the essay question?**

From what I remember, there were several short essay questions. One I recall answer was about a big challenge I had to overcome. I chose a major event in my life, and what I learned from overcoming it. I think another essay question was about financial struggles, so I also wrote about how struggling financially benefitted me aka I learned how to budget and live frugally. Essentially, if you must write an essay about an experience or milestone, **Elaborate on what you learned from it or how you overcome it/what lessons stuck with you!**

**What were some of the questions asked in the interview? How did you prepare for it?**

The questions wasn't too difficult I would say. It was about ten minutes long and I was asked questions like 'if you were elected mayor of your hometown today, what would you change about it/what law would you enact?' and 'what book that you read recently gave you a new perspective or taught you something important?'

**Why do you think you won the scholarship? What do you believe sets you apart from other students who applied?**

I'm honestly not sure why. Maybe it's because I am quite persuasive, as I like to write and read from other perspectives so I could guess what the committee was looking for in the scholarship recipients. But one thing I did in the interview was ask the interviewer several questions, I think about the interviewer's education and career.

**If you could go back in time, knowing what you know now, what would you tell your former self upon preparing for the application?**

Allocate more time to doing the video. It is more important than the essay questions even, I would say!

**Would you recommend students to apply for the scholarship? If so, what advice would you give them upon applying?**

Yes and no. I wouldn't recommend applying if you want to do something like study abroad or perhaps take courses at multiple institutions outside of BC to get your degree. But I would recommend applying if you want to go to a public BC college or university, and if you slightly exceed the application requirements. Like if you worked a lot at a job instead of volunteering during high school, I'd recommend applying as the scholarship looks for people who struggled in life but stayed well rounded, not necessarily the model student with a perfect GPA, AP classes and extra-curricular activities.

**Is there anything else you’d like to add or mention?**

Whether you get the scholarship or not, don't center your life around any particular outlet. Like quit your job spur of the moment, or cut ties with your old friends and family in a desperate attempt to make new ones. I've seen people who ditched such things, and now have lost their identity as a result!

**Julia Townsend**

**Obviously, grades were important, but what types of extracurriculars did you list in the application?**

I listed my volunteer experience, both in school and outside of school. I talked about being in leadership and my role in that class, my role in yearbook, parent-teacher interviews, volunteering I've done in the community, and the youth council I'm apart of. For future applicants, I suggest discussing specific volunteer opportunities and extracurriculars, how you helped, and what you learned from each experience.

**How did you answer the essay question?**

For the Beedie Luminaries scholarship, there are multiple short answer questions rather than one long essay question. Each prompt is specific to what they want to know about you. The questions were based around how you and your family have struggled financially, how you have been successful despite the challenges you've faced, your achievements, and general scholarship questions about you as a person and your future academic goals!

**What were some of the questions asked in the interview? How did you prepare for it?**

I was asked what changes I would make to my community if I were mayor, my favourite book or movie, the person I most admire, and the most valuable lesson I've learned. We were told by the selection committee that we didn't need to prepare, so I suggest future applicants breathe and be themselves during the interview! The selection committee just wants to get a sense of who you are, aside from how you present on the written application.

**Why do you think you won the scholarship? What do you believe sets you apart from other students who applied?**

I think that I won the scholarship because of my determination and successes at school, despite the barriers and challenges I faced.

**If you could go back in time, knowing what you know now, what would you tell your former self upon preparing for the application?**

Give yourself more time to complete the application! Don't start it the week it's due! Start the application early so that you can have time before the due date to review and revise. I found out about the application a month before it was due but doubted that I would even get it. I kept saying to myself that with that many applicants, it was unlikely that I would receive it anyway. I finally decided to apply and hoped for the best. I'm so grateful that I made that decision to apply. If anyone is doubting themselves, my advice is to go ahead and apply! It never hurts to apply for scholarships, and it will make future scholarship applications easier.

**Would you recommend students to apply for the scholarship? If so, what advice would you give them upon applying?**

If they fit the criteria, I definitely encourage them to apply. The Beedie Luminaries are an incredible group of people, and the support that Beedie provides to you throughout post-secondary is unlike any other scholarship. My advice is, be honest with your experiences, talk about how your family's struggles have made you stronger, and don't be afraid to brag about yourself!

**Is there anything else you’d like to add or mention?**

Let me know if there are any questions I can answer!  Students can also message me **on Instagram (@juliatownsendd**) if they have questions about the scholarship program or would like to hear about my experiences.