

Action Set 12

This set will assist you in applying what you learned from “Financial Aid & Scholarships”. Money is important. But make no mistake; **it is secondary to everything else we have been working on**. This is your chance to catch up on old work you have missed because that is **by far** primary. One line of reasoning is similar to the college visits one – why think so much about a college before you even get in... focus on getting admitted! Same with finances; focus on getting accepted to awesomely expensive schools and then concern yourself about the finances.

With Allah's ﷻ help you can more often than not make it through the money difficulties, because both your eyes and those of your parent's have been opening up to how critical your education is to a life of success, in both this world and the hereafter. Nearly all families endure great difficulty paying for their children's college, but you'd be surprised by how much drive this can fuel for the student - to work hard and repay their parents for their sacrifices.

This should be even greater impetus to mitigate those problems by capitalizing on the free money floating around in the scholarship world. This is again where tons of students throw the blanket over their head and keep their faces stuck to the books, not realizing how easy it can be fine-tune the materials you've been putting together over the years and making bank for your family. This is exactly why the process doesn't end after you hit submit on those apps. The smart student realizes the time is prime for scholarship applying after January 1st, so be sure to revisit this set after January!

- Create your “Scholarships Plan”. There should be a minimum of three on here.

My Scholarships Plan

| Scholarship | Deadline? | Essays to reference | Transcript | | Notes |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|------------|--|-------|
| Scholarship 1 | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Scholarship 2 | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Scholarship 3 | | | | | |
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- As a general rule of thumb, this is to be ready for post-January, but many can be before then so don't miss out on those!
 - Use the resources discussed in session, ESPECIALLY your career center or ones in your local area which you are much more likely to win.
 - There should be an essay that you've already written that you can reference and just tweak to fit for this particular scholarship.
 - Still do this if you're not a junior or senior, because it gives you a good chance to scope out the scholarships you will do later.
- ☐ Pick one scholarship that applies well to you and apply.
 - These don't take long and they have a small essay question which you should already have the basis done for by now. Really pay solid attention to the essay and the **goals of the organization offering the scholarship**. Your essay should speak to that. It's a convincing display – show them why you're the right INVESTMENT for them to make.
 - You could even crank out a couple over a weekend, assuming you've done a good job with your essays because that's usually what it mainly boils down to with scholarships.
- ☐ Review the FAFSA and CSS/Profile
 - Here is an area where your guidance counselor or Career Center can be of real use. You don't have to submit it or finish it, just get an idea for what the questions are.
- ☐ Have a discussion with your parents about the extent to which money will have an effect on your university choice.
 - This isn't going to be pretty. It's going to be a lot of “don't worry about money”, “why are you asking about these things just focus on your studies”. Tell them you've been looking at the FAFSA. But what you have to do is just drive home the agreement you want to make with your parents about what they will say if a college is “very expensive”.
- ☐ Review your bad study habits and time-wasters from Aset 9 and seriously reflect on whether you've fixed things.
 - Have you managed to eliminate them and replace them with something better? _____
 - If no, you have to continue to push through and make these changes in your lifestyle and the way you study. This more than anything is a test of your mental fortitude.
 - If yes, congratulations! May Allah ﷻ give you the strength to continue to rid your life of poor habits and time-wasting and disallow them from resurfacing.

SAT Homework

- ☐ Complete Practice Test #11. Last one! You got this! Make sure you check your answers, and make sure you grade it!!! You've got to know where you stand at all times. Look back at your first test scores and take a look at your improvement.