



The Borough of Totowa Public Library Foundation Scholarship Application

- Full Name: _____
(First) (Middle Initial) (Last)
- Address: _____
- Phone (Home): _____ (Cell): _____
- E-Mail Address: _____
- Library Card Number: _____

School and Community Involvement

- High School Attending: _____
- Grade Point Average: _____ Class Rank: _____
- Scholastic Achievement to Date: _____

- Extra Curricular Activities: _____

- **Community Service:** _____

Future Plans and Goals

- **Name of Institution you plan to attend:** _____

- **Anticipated Major:** _____

- **Future Plans and Goals:** _____

Essay

In addition to the information above, please select an essay prompt from one of the three listed below and abide by the following requirements:

- MLA Heading
- 12 Point Font, Times New Roman
- Double Spaced
- Minimum of 300 words, maximum of 500 words

1) Libraries of the 21st century are more than just buildings with books; they serve as community centers for residents of all ages from the very young to senior citizens. Today's public libraries inspire lifelong learning and empower people of all ages and in all stages of life.

- What types of experiences have you encountered at the library and how can the library help you achieve your goals?
- What can today's libraries do to encourage you and more of your peers to utilize the library and its many services?

2) Studies indicate that students who read regularly for enjoyment outperform those who do not. Voluntary reading is essential to helping students become better readers and stronger writers. Research also indicates that reading fiction can improve social empathy and enable the reader to connect with his/her fellow human beings.

- What is one of your favorite childhood books that drew you into reading for pleasure?
- How can the solitary activity of reading for enjoyment expand your horizons and further connect you to the outside world?
- How can the library encourage more students to read for enjoyment and become lifelong readers?

3) An excerpt from "The Future of Libraries: Short on Books, Long on Tech" by Margaret Rock states:

"You may think libraries a dying relic, but surprisingly, people still go there to use computers, often to look for work or beef up their tech skills. Small businesses and community organizations also use study rooms for office and meeting spaces. And according to a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation [report](#), nearly half of Americans living below the poverty line access e-mail and the Web from libraries, highlighting how they're still an important staple in the community...

In some ways, libraries are doing what they've always done: adapting to technology, whether by collecting documents, storing records and videotapes or offering e-books and computer terminals. Today, they're under pressure to give more and create spaces that connect people to information and ideas.

Books won't fade, but with so many other mediums to explore, libraries, especially those with technology, can enhance skills. Access itself isn't enough: libraries need to harness the sheer overabundance of information in the digital age and become facilitators to help us sort through the avalanche."

After having read the above excerpt, explain how you can convince elementary grade students that the public library is a necessary and viable learning facility. This age group has been exclusively raised on technology and the internet as an information source, so they may not even know what the purpose of a library is. What would you tell them that would challenge the attitude that libraries are unnecessary in the 21st century?