

# ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

## A SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITY

### **FINALLY, A SCHOLARSHIP FOR ZOMBIE FANS...**

Has "The Walking Dead" got you thinking what you might do if your streets were filled with flesh-eating zombies? Maybe you've envisioned your own post-apocalyptic world overrun with the living dead, forcing you to come up with a zombie survival plan - and quick!

Hone in on those survival tactics and imagine what your school or college campus might be like in a zombie apocalypse. Our Zombie Scholarship Committee wants to know your plan to avoid the zombies, where you would hide (or maybe you don't need to), and the top five things you would bring to stay alive.

Our Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship is underway, and we are giving one successful "survivor" \$2,000 towards his or her college education. Do you think you have what it takes to make the cut?

### **Applicants must:**

- Be fourteen (14) years of age or older at the time of application. Be legal
- residents of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia.  
Be currently enrolled (or enroll no later than the fall of 2028) in an
- accredited postsecondary institution of higher education.

### **Submit an online short written response (250 words or less) for the question:**

"Imagine that your high school/college has been overrun with Zombies. Your math professor, the cafeteria ladies and even your best friend have all joined the walking dead. Use your brain to flesh out a plan to avoid the Zombies, including where you would hide and the top 5 things you would bring with you to stay alive."

**The Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship winner will be notified by email or phone on or around January 31, 2024.**

**Award Amount:** \$2,000

**Application Deadline:** October 31, 2023

**Source:** [www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship](http://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship)



# SUBMISSION #1

- **Name:** Rusty Pypes
- **Age:** 19
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** Yes
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

If you're reading this then you're alive. Maybe I'm still alive too. Maybe. My brain is going crazy as I write this, but at least I still have one. All my friends, my professors, even the cafeteria ladies have fallen victim to the zombie apocalypse. I thought I could stay hidden in my dorm room, but I am running low on Cup of Noodles, and if by chance housing administration has survived, I just know they are going to charge me extra for staying in my dorm over winter break. I've decided to make a run for it.

If I leave out my window I should be able to make it to my car before I am spotted. My plan is to head to Olympia and meet up with my family who hopefully made it to my grandpas. The last time I talked to my parents they were headed to grandpas for the holidays, but that was before the outbreak. Grandpa is a gunsmith by trade so he will have the real protection that I need from the zombies. Fighting them off with powder from Flamin' Hot Cheetos only buys me seconds at a time.

I'm packing a lighter, climbing rope, my pocket knife, what's left of my beef jerky supply, and my ham radio. Grandpa's house is 3 hours away. I just need to survive the drive and then I know I will be safe at his place.

**Word Count:** 239

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	

# SUBMISSION #2

- **Name:** Ann Chovie
- **Age:** 17
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** Yes
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

I was born on the 12th floor of a military hospital in Washington. I died taking a math exam when my professor bit me. I did not know I was going to die at the time. I am not as dead as my professor though, he is dead dead.

So like I said, I am dead, but not in the sense, you might think. I have the zombie virus. I look like a zombie, smell like a zombie, but I'm still the human me. Being dead has its benefits when you are in the middle of a zombie apocalypse. Once you are dead, the zombies leave you alone. It is the living you have to watch out for.

I mostly stay home these days, but sometimes I have to leave the house. I'm dead but my appetite isn't. I raid houses and stores for canned goods. All the fresh food has spoiled so I mostly eat canned goods these days, but hey it's better than human brains.

When heading out I have to take with me lots of makeup and self-tanner to cover up my graying flesh. Humans spot a patch of dead flesh and BAM you become dead dead. I also keep with me an iPhone, some earbuds, and a North Face jacket. I'm dead so I need these items to blend in with the living. It usually works, but if I ever feel like I am spotted I just play dead. Which isn't hard for me to do these days.

**Word Count:** 252

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	

# SUBMISSION #3

- **Name:** Frank N. Stein
- **Age:** 16
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** Yes
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

My parents are immigrants, they never graduated from high school, let alone college. Much like a zombie apocalypse my parents were fleeing for their lives.

In the event I was in a zombie apocalypse I would take with me exactly what my family took with them: the clothes on your back, a backpack that contains a small amount of food, water, a small knife, and a picture of family and friends.

Although my parents survived their journey to America, the struggle to survive has always remained. My parents' lack of education has directly influenced the amount of money our family has, which dictates so much about our lives. I have only known poverty despite knowing greater wealth and opportunity exists.

My dream is to graduate high school and attend a university where I hope to pursue a degree that will help me in my path to becoming a physician. This scholarship means not only can I pursue my dream, but I can break the cycle of poverty that has a grasp on my family. In turn I can give back to my community that so desperately needs a medical doctor.

Much like my parents who dreamed of a better life, I too dream of one and you can help me make it a reality.

**Word Count:** 214

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	

# SUBMISSION #4

- **Name:** Val Veeta
- **Age:** 15
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** No
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

Zombies zombies everywhere. They sure do create quite the scare. Biting, clawing, go the walking dead. Remain alert or you'll lose one's head. I'm hiding in my woodshop class. The zombies are coming I better act fast. A hammer, chisel, saw, a nail gun. Bring it on zombies lets have some fun.

I hear them snarling outside the door. I've taken my position, crouched down on the floor. Behind a wall of desks my battle station is ready. In come the zombies, I aim in true and steady. I fire my nail gun right for their head. And one by one I bring an end to the walking dead. I stand their victoriously, I won the battle.

Wait what is that behind me, I hear a rattle. Slowly I turn and there he stands. My woodshop teacher with someone's arm in his hands The zombie look suits him, he was never very nice He gave me a C, but I'm not going to give him my life.

Hammer in hand I'm ready to fight. Just need to make sure he doesn't get in a bite. I swing and I hit as hard as I can. He fights back by clawing, but not a scratch does he land I deliver a fatal blow and he drops in front of me. I let him know that this had nothing to do with that C. I head out the door alert and steady. Bring it on zombies I'm more than ready.

**Word Count:** 248

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	

# SUBMISSION #5

- **Name:** Yule B. Sari
- **Age:** 19
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** Yes
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

I live in small apartment with my 2 brother, my mom dad, and 1 dog. If there was a zombie outbreak I would take my family and dog with me. I would take them to a safe place. Like a police station. A police station has other things my family and I could use to keep us safe. Like guns, tear gas, and things we could wear to keep us more safe like helmets and vests.

My dad was in the army for 4 years so he is good with guns and will know how to use them and he can teach the rest of us how to use them because it will be important for us to all know how to use them because it will be probably the best way to make sure we all stay alive and do not get bit by the zombies.

I think a police station would be the best solution too stay alive. There will probably be other people that are there too. We can join up with the other people to help fight off the zombies. There is power in numbers so the more people we have to fight the stronger we will be. And the more people there are the more things there are to do things. Like collect food, ammunition, clothes, and vehicles. The most important thing is to keep my family safe and make them proud and that is what I would do for them.

**Word Count:** 243

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	

# SUBMISSION #6

- **Name:** Sam Manilla
- **Age:** 16
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** Yes
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

If there were a zombie apocalypse I would take with me the following things –

1. Gun
2. Flashlight
3. Lighter
4. Water
5. Clothing

I would take these things with me because these are things you need to survive. These are things you need in general to survive whether it be an earthquake, storm, or in this case zombies.

I would use the gun for protection by shooting at the zombies. I would also use it to steal from other people who might have other supplies I want or need, like a car, clothing, and food. In a survival setting no one is your friend and you cannot trust anyone.

I would use the flashlight for exactly what it is designed for – to see in the dark.

I would use the lighter to start a fire to keep warm or to light things on fire to cause a distraction while I raid buildings for supplies. The water I would use for drinking and cleaning.

Clothing is for me to wear to keep my skin protected from the elements.

If the zombie outbreak happened at school I would leave school as fast as I could and head home to gather my things. Then I would get as far and as deep into the woods until I felt I was safe. I wouldn't tell anyone where I was going because I wouldn't want to get attached to anyone who might slow me down.

**Word Count:** 242

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	

# SUBMISSION #7

- **Name:** Eve Hill
- **Age:** 12
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** Yes
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

I think I have what it takes to survive if zombies ended up at my school because my dog and I watch the walking dead all the time. I love the show and zombies, they are so cool. My 12th birthday party was last weekend and it was zombie themed so I know how zombies would act because my friends and I dressed up as them. My dog would help me survive because he can bark really loud at zombies and people too. So if I was at home I know I would survive because he would let me know if there was a zombie in my house. I am a good student and have a 3.0 GPA and I know that would help me in a zombie apocalypse. Because I could study on how to survive. I want to go to University of Washington when I graduate from high school and this scholarship would help me. Thank you for your time.

**Word Count:** 162

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	



# SUBMISSION #8

- **Name:** Ewan Whatarmy
- **Age:** 16
- **Are you a legal resident of the United States?** Yes
- **Are you or will you be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education no later than the fall of 2028?** Yes

## Essay:

I feel my son is a great match for your scholarship. He has been a dedicated student since he was in grade school. Now that he is in high school he is taking Advanced Placement courses and is involved in several clubs on his campus. He is even thinking about taking college classes while he is in high school. Even though he is taking more difficult classes than his peers he maintains a 3.27 GPA and volunteers at our local community center. In addition, he is a great leader and is running for ASB president this fall. Now that he is looking at colleges we are helping him with scholarship applications.

The main reason why he is a great match for your scholarship is because he loves zombies! He would bring the same level of dedication to surviving the zombie apocalypse as he does to his studies. His leadership skills will serve him well in assisting his friends in surviving too. He would bring his iPhone, our dog, a baseball bat, Doritos, and Mountain Dew to survive. He would avoid zombies by remaining in our home for the duration of the apocalypse. Our house is safe and contains all the things he would need to survive. Thank you for considering my son for your scholarship.

**Word Count:** 214

Meets Basic Requirements	
Overall Organization/Grammar	
Does the student include a plan?	
Does the student explain where he or she would hide?	
Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?	
Total Score	
Comments	

# Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship Scoring Rubric

**Prompt:** "Imagine that your high school/college has been overrun with Zombies. Your math professor, the cafeteria ladies and even your best friend have all joined the walking dead. Use your brain to flesh out a plan to avoid the Zombies, including where you would hide and the top 5 things you would bring with you to stay alive."

<b>Meets basic requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is fourteen (14) years of age or older at the time of application.</li> <li>Is a legal resident of the fifty (50) United States or the District of Columbia</li> <li>Is currently enrolled (or will enroll no later than the fall of 2028) in an accredited postsecondary institution of higher education.</li> <li>Student completed the application.</li> <li>Met deadline.</li> <li>The essay is 250 words or less.</li> </ul>				<b>Meets basic requirements?</b>  <b>Yes - 3 pts</b> <b>No - 0 pts</b>
Criteria	Does Not Meet Criteria – 0 pts	Satisfactory -1 pts	Good -2 pts	Excellent- 3 pts
<b>Overall Organization/Grammar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essay does not make sense.</li> <li>There are many grammatical and spelling errors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essay makes sense.</li> <li>Grammatical and spelling errors are distracting.</li> <li>Essay paragraph structure is hard to follow or poorly organized.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essay flows well.</li> <li>There are few grammatical or spelling errors.</li> <li>Essay is organized in paragraph(s), but may not be in appropriate order.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essay flows well.</li> <li>Essay is well organized and in complete paragraph(s) that follow the question format.</li> <li>There are no grammatical or spelling errors.</li> </ul>
<b>Does the student include a plan?</b>	Answer is incomplete. Does not provide a plan.	Provides vague examples. The plan discusses survival but not zombies.	Provides an example of how the student would avoid the zombies.	Provides a creative, detailed and specific plan to avoid the zombies and stay alive.
<b>Does the student explain where he or she would hide?</b>	Answer is incomplete. Does not provide an example of where the student would hide.	Mentions hiding, but not where.	Provides an example, but lacks details.	Provides a creative, detailed and specific example of where the student would hide.
<b>Does the student include the top five things that he or she would bring in order to stay alive?</b>	Answer is incomplete. Does not provide any examples.	Has vague ideas but does not elaborate.	Student gives some examples but may lack detail to describe adequately how these items would help in survival.	Provides creative, specific and detailed examples that show that the student is thoughtful about the items selected and how they will enable survival.

## Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship Scores

Applicant	Score
1. Rusty Pypes	
2. Ann Chovie	
3. Frank N. Stein	
4. Val Veeta	
5. Yule B. Sari	
6. Sam Manilla	
7. Eve Hill	
8. Ewan Whatarmy	

## Scholarship Pitfalls and Strategies

*A simple mistake could cost you a scholarship. It is important to pay attention to every detail. Applicants need to know what is being asked and need to comply with these requirements. Common mistakes are preventable. Avoid these common pitfalls by using these tips.*

COMMON MISTAKES	STRATEGIES
Missing the deadline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a spreadsheet and add dates to a calendar. <i>If possible</i>, use an electronic calendar that allows you to set reminders.</li> <li>• Pay attention to deadlines that require mailing an item. Be sure to track any sent mail.</li> </ul>
Not following instructions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the entire application and instructions before you begin working.</li> <li>• Identify the goal and direct your application towards meeting it.</li> <li>• Know the audience.</li> <li>• Complete the application in full and follow the directions.</li> </ul>
Typos and omitting requested information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a rubric.</li> <li>• Proofread and ask others to proofread using the rubric.</li> </ul>
Not following word count.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the application asks for a word range, hit the target.</li> <li>• Use Microsoft Word to create draft. Online applications can time out and may not include spell check.</li> <li>• Avoid falling off topic trying to meet the count.</li> </ul>
Waiting until senior year to begin scholarship search.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start early.</li> <li>• You can find scholarships even in 7th and 8th grade.</li> <li>• Begin building a profile on theWashboard.org in middle school.</li> </ul>
Being unprepared.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a résumé and a list of your accomplishments.</li> <li>• Get organized. You may need the following: HS transcripts, standardized test scores, FAFSA/WASFA, essays, letters of recommendation, etc.</li> <li>• Save everything that you submit in case something gets lost.</li> </ul>
Not meeting eligibility requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply only if eligible.</li> <li>• Read requirements first. You will not be considered if you do not meet them.</li> </ul>
Generic letters of recommendation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request letters of recommendation from people who know you well and are able to talk about your abilities and attributes.</li> <li>• Be sure to give the recommender enough time to write a letter.</li> </ul>
Applying to one scholarship or giving up the application process altogether.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply to as many scholarships as you are eligible.</li> <li>• Start early and continue to apply through college.</li> </ul>
Vague responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give concrete examples that illustrate your point.</li> <li>• Be clear and concise.</li> </ul>
Underselling yourself.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show strengths and explain weaknesses.</li> <li>• GEAR UP can be listed as an activity.</li> </ul>
Not asking for help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get others to proofread your application.</li> <li>• If English is not your first language, have a native speaker proofread.</li> </ul>