***Million Dollar Scholar Senior Summer Guide
By: Shia Seymmone Rozier***

Hey everyone! **My name is Shia Seymmone Rozier.** I am a recent alumna of Palm Beach Lakes High School. In August I will begin as freshman at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University **(NCAT) on a full-ride academic scholarship.** In the college application process I acquired **over $1.4 million in scholarship offers!** I have also earned **over $20,000 in outside scholarships as well.**

My senior year was truly one of the most overwhelming and difficult times of high school for me because of the simple fact I didn’t know where to start. **Million Dolla Scholar was started so you don’t go through the same thing! This doc will be continuously updated** to give you more information about scholarships, interviews, applications, and more, **so check back!**

For additional advice and tips **follow @milliondollascholar\_ on Instagram**

**Summer Prep**

1. **Get Your College List**
	1. **Make your list of top schools**
	2. When you get your list **research their deadlines and requirements**
		1. Look up presidential scholarship qualifications so you know what to aim for and if it will possible for you. Also you can call to see what departmental scholarships are looking for.
	3. **Put the deadlines** (broken up by application deadline, FASFA deadline, test score deadlines, and scholarship deadlines) **in a spreadsheet** so you can keep up in the school year.
	4. **See if your schools are test optiona**l, and look at their average test scores to decide if you should submit yours.
	5. Apply to schools that you know you can get scholarship money at. You can use it for negotiation
2. **Make a New College Email**
	1. This email will only be for colleges and scholarships.
3. **Join TRIO**
4. **Take the ACT and SAT**
	1. Take as many as you can before September, summer if you can.
	2. Figure out whether you are better at SAT or ACT and focus on that one
		1. Typically ACT is better for those whose strength is reading and SAT is whose strength is math.
	3. Try to get free waivers from your guidance counselor. TRIO will also sometimes pay for more testing once you run out of waivers.
	4. Consider investing in a tutor early
		1. It may be a bit expensive, but think of it as an investment. High scores get full rides. A $1,000 tutor is cheaper than $100,000 of student debt.
	5. Use the ACT online prep tool and Khan Academy.
5. **Save Your Money**
	1. **Senior year is expensive!!** Every time you turn your head it will be a new expense. From prom, to graduation, and even just club dues. Please be prepared
	2. Girls: Use your hairstyles for more than one occasion
		1. Take your senior pictures around your birthday or the first day of school, anytime you have your hair done
		2. Take your decision pictures around your prom or gradbash.
6. **Ask for letters of recommendation:** Try to ask over summer before teachers get busy.
	1. For application and scholarship purposes you’ll need them from different people
		1. **Two teachers**
		2. **One guidance counselor**
		3. **One community/civic leader (pastor, head of a community organization, leadership of sorority/fraternity)**
		4. Club sponsor (optional)
		5. Coach (If in sport)
		6. Academy teacher (if in program)
	2. When you ask send you
7. **Put together a resume (you will need it for college apps & scholarships)**
	1. **Highlight and elaborate work experience and leadership positions**
	2. **Resume.io is a great website and tool!**
	3. Palm Beach County students **use Paper** (on your school district portal) **for resume review**
	4. Remember when **applying for scholarships you change/re-organize your resume based on the scholarship/organizations**
		1. Ex: If I was applying for a law related scholarship I would move and emphasize my law related extracurriculars to the top, versus if I was applying to a community service based on I would put more emphasis on my community service activities
8. **Do Your College Essay**
	1. Common app prompts are available now! **Pick yours now and try to have it done by end of July latest.**
	2. Pam Beach County Students, **use Paper, on your school district portal, for free essay reviews.**

1. **Get Professional Attire**
	1. For scholarship interviews you’ll need professional attire. Get at least one black suit and one business casual outfit (blouse and slacks)
2. **Get Your Community Service in Order**
	1. Make **sure your community service is submitted**. If it is not, then **take a picture of all your community service forms and create a photo album in your phone,** so that you can submit and have a record for the next school year.
3. **Have a Headshot Picture**
	1. Many scholarships will ask for a headshot to go with it
	2. While **I recommend getting a headshot** (you can use it for years and need it for professional settings), but **your senior picture can usually be used instead.**
4. **Get Prepared For Scholarship Essays**
	1. **Most essays will ask for the same thing in different variations. Your most common prompts are:**
		1. **Academic and career goals**
		2. **A challenge you overcame**
		3. **Letter of Interest**
		4. **Meaningful contribution you have made at school or community**

**College Essay Tips:**

* Remember this essay is so **admissions gets to know you better outside of what’s on paper.**
* **Do not think you have to do a “struggle essay”**. ***Learning, growth, passion, self-realization, and/or individuality is best.***
* Do not just talk about what you went through, spend the majority of time talking about what an experience taught you and how you developed from it.
* **Do not just repeat your resume.**
* **Have a good hook. Don’t start with my name is or to begin**
* **Get essay ideas from others.** I would look in tik tok comments for prompts that I liked and then text the people on Instagram. Everyone I asked was super helpful. The worst thing that can happen is they don’t respond or say no.
* Ask your teachers to read over it

**Finding Scholarships**

* Apply now during summer, there’s lower competition.
* Look for local scholarships. There’s less competition so you have more of a chance to win.
* PBC students the school district provides a list of them, check every couple of days! <https://apps.palmbeachschools.org/ScholarshipSearch>
* Look for niche scholarships. Ex:
	+ Specific to your major
	+ Specific to your demographics. (HBCU Students, Black Women in STEM, LGBTQ
	+ Specific to your career goal.
* Local sorority and fraternity scholarships
* Ask your guidance counselor
* Local alumni Association for your school
* Follow scholarship pages on Instagram and TikTok

**Scholarship Application Tips**

* Research the organization you’re applying to prior to your application and adjust your application based on them
* Adjust your application and resume
	+ As I applied to the AKA Scholarship, I researched and saw one of their values was “service to all mankind”, so I would elaborate on my experience with Best Buddies bringing service to students with disabilities. But when I applied to the State Attorney scholarship I highlighted and wrote about my experience in the Law Academy