The Van Doren Scholarship

Checklist & Application

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Van Doren Scholarship. The Van Doren Application consists of two components:

(a)The written sections that include evidence of your academic performance and character.
(b) A personal interview with the Scholarship Committee if you are chosen as a finalist.

For best results, follow these instructions carefully.

1. The postmark deadline for complete applications is March 18, 2027. Applications received with later postmark dates will not be considered.
2. Applications are deemed complete when we have received each of the following:
   a. Your application form. This is available on-line at our website (www.vandorenscholars.com) or in hard copy form at most Somerset County Public Library branches and secondary school guidance offices.
   b. A legal signature indicating that you (and your parent or legal guardian, if under 21) acknowledge your eligibility and other requirements of the competition.
   c. A recent academic transcript from your current secondary or post-secondary school.
   d. Please provide two recent letters of reference, written during the current academic year that attest to your academic achievements and personal character.
   e. Only a typed application will be accepted.

NOTE: IF ANY OF THE DOCUMENTS IN (C) TO (D) ABOVE ARE BEING SENT SEPARATELY FROM YOUR APPLICATION (AS IS OFTEN THE CASE WITH OFFICIAL SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS, FOR INSTANCE), **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSURE THAT THE SENDERS ADHERE TO THE POSTMARK DEADLINE.**

Using the Downloadable Application Form

The application form available on our website is a fillable PDF file that may be completed off-line using your computer. Simply download the file and open it locally using the free Adobe Reader. Place your screen cursor in any field on the form and type your responses directly into the space provided. You may discover that you can paste text into a field from another application, but we encourage you to take your time and verify that your answers are complete. You may save the form locally. When you have completed each of the questions and essays, print and sign your form and submit it by mail to:
Van Doren Scholars • PO Box 584 • Peapack, NJ 07977

Using the Pre-printed Application Form

The application form available at Somerset County libraries, and school guidance offices, has been printed in advance. We prefer typewritten responses. Handwritten submissions will no longer be accepted.

The Van Doren Scholarship

P.O. Box 584, Peapack, New Jersey 07977

2027 Scholarship APPLICATION

Part One: Applicant Information

Last name | First name

Postal address

City | Zip code | Length of residency in Somerset County

Phone: | email:

Part Two: Academic Status

1. Please provide the name of the secondary school, trade, or nursing school, or college where you are currently a full-time student. If you are in college, also indicate your year of study and the high school you attended.

2. Test scores

IMPORTANT! If you are a high school senior, in addition to your current transcript, be certain to include all Standardized Test Scores (SAT or ACT) received to date, if applicable. If you are attending a college, or trade, or nursing school, you need to include only your transcript.

☐ Check if any of these documents will arrive separately.

3. Current grade point average

4. If you are a high school senior, include all AP scores.

5. If you are a high school senior, list post-secondary schools to which you have applied.

Part Three: Honors, Activities, & Interests

6. List major scholastic or school awards and honors.

7. List major school and community activities.

8. Describe any special studies (i.e., art, music, etc.) you are currently undertaking.

9. What is your planned or current major field of study?

10. List important hobbies or special interests.

Part Four: Self-Assessment: Short Essays

Questions #11 through #14 are best answered as brief essays (suggested length 200 words each). All applicants, other than returning Van Doren scholars, are required to answer questions #11, #12, and #13. If you are a returning Van Doren Scholar, please answer only questions #13, #14, and #15.

Peter Van Doren, a Peapack-Gladstone resident, directed his estate to award scholarships to students who exhibit a lifelong incentive for learning and strong character.

11. One way to define role model is to say that this is a person who helps you to become the best version of yourself. Do you have a role model? If so, what is one quality of this person that you find worthy of emulating? If not, what is a quality that you possess that is worthy of perhaps inspiring others?

12. Describe how you are currently making a contribution to your community and, looking ahead, explain what you plan to do in the future.

13. What have you learned about yourself in the past year?

14. How does your college experience over the past year qualify you to continue as a Van Doren scholar?

15. Most Van Doren scholars use their awards to help pay for basic college costs, and this is something we expect. Once in a while, however, we find that the money was used for something different, such as to pursue an opportunity that otherwise would not be possible. In a sentence or two, tell us how you used your Van Doren scholarship award.

Part Five: Affirmations & Filing Instructions

I am aware that in order to receive a Van Doren Scholarship, I must be a full-time undergraduate student at an approved, accredited four-year college or university, a two-year college, or a post-secondary trade or nursing school. I affirm that all information in this application is true. By applying for a Van Doren Scholarship, I agree to accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.

Applicant's signature	Date

To be completed by parent or guardian (if Applicant is not yet 21) :

I have reviewed this scholarship application and affirm that the information it contains is true. I agree to accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.

Parent's or guardian's signature	Date

Filing Instructions:

This application, upon submission, shall become the sole property of the Peter Ellis Van Doren Scholarship Committee, and the information contained within it will be kept confidential. A PDF version of this form suitable for completing on-screen using Adobe Reader software may be obtained from our website at www.vandorenscholars.com. **All applications must be postmarked no later than March 18, 2027.** Incomplete or late applications, or applications lacking the necessary signatures, will not be considered. **All applicants must be legal residents of Somerset County, NJ, and if selected as a finalist, be available for an interview with the Van Doren Scholarship Committee on Saturday, May 15, 2027.**

Ref. #1 ACHIEVEMENT

Applicant's name	Current school

To the applicant:
Present this page of the application to someone, other than family, who will write a letter to the Scholarship Committee describing, in detail, your **strong incentive to learn.**

To the preparer:
The above-referenced student is applying to receive The Van Doren Scholarship, an annual award given to Somerset County, NJ, residents who exhibit a lifelong incentive to learn and evidence of strong moral character. Awards are made following careful review of an applicant's academic and extra-curricular achievements, independent references, and individual interviews with finalists. You are being asked to provide **one of two** letters supporting this applicant's qualifications to receive a Van Doren Scholarship.

We encourage you to comment specifically on such topics as the applicant's ability to reason, originality of thought, willingness to take risks, and open-mindedness.

Your reference is intended to be a confidential statement by you on behalf of the applicant and will be used solely for our screening purposes. It will not be kept on file. We hope that this policy will encourage you to provide a candid assessment of this applicant's merits.

We are interested in both academic and non-academic factors and hope that you will mention any exceptional qualities, talents, or achievements with which you are familiar. We also trust that you will make both positive and critical observations as appropriate. An anecdote may help you illustrate a point. The more specific you can be, the better your reference will enable us to distinguish this applicant from others.

Your reference does not have to accompany the Applicant's formal application, but **should be mailed no later than March 18, 2027 to:**

The Van Doren Scholarship, P.O. Box 584, Peapack, NJ 07977

We understand the demands that reports, such as this, place on your time, and we are grateful for your efforts. Your input will be an integral part of this student's application and will be read carefully by the Selection Committee.

Thank you.

To learn more about The Van Doren Scholarship, visit our website at www.vandorenscholars.com.

Ref. #2 CHARACTER

Applicant's name	Current school

To the applicant:
Present this page of the application to someone, other than family, who will write a letter to the Scholarship Committee describing, in detail, your **high moral character.**

To the Preparer:
The above-referenced student is applying to receive The Van Doren Scholarship, an annual award given to Somerset County, NJ, residents who exhibit a lifelong incentive to learn and evidence of strong moral character. Awards are made following careful review of an applicant's academic and extra-curricular achievements, independent references, and individual interviews with finalists. You are being asked to provide **one of two** letters supporting this applicant's qualifications to receive a Van Doren Scholarship.

We encourage you to comment specifically on such topics as the applicant's demonstrated personal ethics, involvement in school and/or community, ability to adjust to unexpected circumstances, ability to relate to both peers and adults, and courage of convictions.

Your reference is intended to be a confidential statement by you on behalf of the applicant and will be used solely for our screening purposes. It will not be kept on file. We hope that this policy will encourage you to provide a candid assessment of this applicant's merits.

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