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Personal Statement for Scholarship Example

If you open the top drawer of my nightstand, you'll find receipts. Not from stores, but from moments.

One is a crumpled wristband from the night my robotics team placed first in a regional challenge we weren't expected to qualify for. Another is a sticky note from my younger brother that says "You're the best big sister and tutor I ever had," complete with a crooked smiley face. These keepsakes aren't fancy. But they remind me what I'm building toward, and why this scholarship would mean more than just money.

I come from a family where opportunity isn't assumed. My parents immigrated from Honduras with nothing but their high school diplomas and a dream that their kids wouldn't have to work three jobs like they did. They gave me stability, encouragement, and an early lesson in resilience.

But scholarships? They mean time. They mean I can say yes to unpaid internships, research projects, or academic conferences without guilt. They mean I can chase opportunity, not just affordability.

Academically, I've maintained a 4.0 GPA while working part-time as a coding tutor and caregiving for my grandmother. I've also co-led our school's environmental club, where we launched a low-cost air quality monitoring project using DIY sensors — because climate justice, in my community, isn't an abstract idea. It's asthma rates, rising bills, and unreliable buses.

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I'm planning to major in computer engineering with a focus on sustainable tech design. My dream is to create low-energy systems for schools and small businesses in underfunded areas. Technology, I believe, should be a leveler not a ladder only a few can climb.

What sets me apart isn't that I've struggled and it's that I've kept my curiosity intact despite it. I still ask too many questions. I still take apart broken electronics just to understand their guts. I still get excited by spreadsheets. And I still believe in making small things better, because that's how the big things begin.

If granted this scholarship, I'll treat it not just as support, but as investment. I plan to make that investment count — with my grades, with my projects, and with a drawer full of new receipts from the lives I hope to help improve.