



AMERICAN INDIAN
GRADUATE CENTER

THE CENTER FOR NATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT RESOURCE

SCHOLARSHIP & PERSONAL STATEMENT
WRITING PROMPTS

Writing Prompts

Scholarship Applications

Below are some examples of scholarship application writing prompts that you may see when applying for financial aid. Take some time to read the examples below and think about how you would answer them. Then write a response and have a teacher or trusted-mentor provide feedback.

Example 1

Talk about your academic strengths. Discuss a subject in which you had difficulty. What factors do you believe contributed to your difficulties? How have you dealt with it so it will not cause problems for you again?

Example 2

Can you describe a community service activity in which you played a part? What was the most memorable part of that activity?

Example 3

How do you define a "leader"? What makes a strong leader? Name two or three qualities that you possess that make you an effective leader.

Example 4

Describe an unfair situation and how did you overcome it?

Example 5

How do you think your education will prepare you to achieve your future goals?

Example 6

Describe a subject that you have had difficulty in. What factors do you believe contributed to your difficulties? How have you dealt with them so they will no cause problems for you again? In what areas have you experienced the most improvement? What areas of difficulty remain?

Writing Prompts

Personal Statements

Below are some examples of personal statement writing prompts that you may see when applying for financial aid. Take some time to read the examples below and think about how you would answer them. Then write a response and have a teacher or trusted-mentor provide feedback.

Example 1

Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

Example 2

Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

Example 3

Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

Example 4

Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

Example 5

Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.