

WHAT MAKES A STRONG APPLICATION?

Step 1 | Be Yourself!

- Your application is your opportunity to show us who YOU are—your accomplishments, your lived experiences, and your leadership.
- Be honest and open about your experiences, thoughts, struggles, lessons, etc. Remember that you are a remarkable person.
- When it makes sense, tell us about people who helped you get to where you are. Give credit to one or more people that have supported you along the way.
- Make sure to represent your authentic self. That will set you apart - no one else is you!

Know Your “Whys”

Why did you choose to join an organization? Why did you choose to take that class? And what did you learn about yourself through that experience?

When you can express your “whys,” you help us begin to understand who you are.

Step 2 | Carefully Select Your Recommender

- Things you should consider: Who knows you? Who can speak to your strengths? Who can vouch for you and help show us who you are?
- Choose a recommender who is able to highlight not only your accomplishments, but also your personality, motivations for education, passions, and character.
- Meet with your recommender and give them the opportunity to ask questions, get to know you better, and understand why you are applying.
- Provide your recommender with a resume or list of your activities that they can refer to.

(For more tips on selecting a Recommender, see our Recommendation Tip Sheet.)

Step 3 | Write Thoughtfully

- Say what you need to say in a concise, succinct, but complete essay.
- Make sure you spend adequate time on your essays. No two sentence answers, please!
- Have another pair of eyes review grammar in your essays.
- Don't give generic answers. Every student loves/hates math. What makes your love/hate story different? Think outside the box. Make it interesting.
- One essay question may have multiple parts—be sure to answer all parts. If you don't, your essay will be incomplete.
- Structure your essays in a clear, organized format (hint: make an outline). How does each essay contribute to your overall presentation? How do they work together to show your personal journey?
- Use your most profound experiences that you feel will “wow” the reader.
- Your whole application should give us a complete picture.

Start early!

Leave yourself enough time to write and review your essays!

Check your spelling and grammar!

Questions?

Contact
outreach@apiasf.org
1.877.808.7032 x. 104