

# CULTIVATE STRONG APIASF & GMS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

It's OK to make mistakes, they will only help you grow!

Tell us how you learned from them!

Don't wait until the last minute!

Leave yourself enough time to write and review your essays!

Create a timeline of deadlines to stay on track!

## BE YOURSELF!

- Don't be afraid to be yourself. Your essays should represent who you are!
- Be passionate about your interests and your goals.

## WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

- Who are you? What is your narrative? How have your lived experiences shaped who you are, your perspective, and the decisions you make?
- Why do you want to go to college? What motivates you?
- What are your short-term and long-term goals? What steps are you taking to reach them?
- How are your goals related to your plans to give back to the community when you are finished with school?

## RECOMMENDATION LETTER

- The recommender should be able to speak about you in a positive manner.
- Provide a resume or list of activities to your recommender.
- Meet with your recommender and give them the opportunity to ask questions and get to know you better.
- Choose a recommender that is able to highlight not only your accomplishments, but also your personality, motivations for education, passions, and character.
- Give the recommender enough time to write a strong letter (i.e. at minimum two weeks)!
- Have a second recommender ready as a back-up.

## SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

- Who are your biggest advocates? How did they support you?
- What are some resources you've used to support your goals?
- Who/what is the driving force behind your current and future successes?

## ORGANIZATION IS KEY!

- Make an outline of your essays.
- Use specific examples.
- Make sure you answer every part of the question.
- Have friends, family members, educators, and mentors look over your application.
- Quality over quantity.

## ASK YOURSELF, "WHY?"

*Think about what APIASF & GMS will learn about you from your essays. For example:*

- Why did you choose to be a member of an organization? What skills did you develop? And what did you learn about yourself? Or, if you couldn't join an organization, what were your other obligations?
- Why did you choose to take the classes you did? Were you challenging yourself with a harder class and/or a new subject? Were there other factors that influenced your choices?

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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