



MANA Scholarship Application Guide 2022

Submission Deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Please review this guide before you begin working on the scholarship application. Questions? Please contact us at manascholarship@manasd.org. We wish you the best of luck!

GENERAL TIPS

Start Early

It is important to begin filling out your application well before the submission deadline to allow enough time to gather and submit all required documents. Completing an early first draft will also give you time to get feedback on your personal statement from a trusted mentor.

Be Thorough

Before submitting your application, check and recheck for thoroughness. Incomplete applications will NOT be taken into consideration.

Required Application Materials (*see application for more details*):

- Scholarship Application (posted here: <https://manasd.org/programs/scholarship/>)
- Personal Statement (saved as a PDF with first and last name on file name)
- Transcript (saved as a PDF with first and last name on file name)
- Reference Form (separate Google form submitted by your reference person)

TIPS FOR WRITING A STRONG PERSONAL STATEMENT

What is a personal statement?

Your personal statement is one of the most important parts of this, as well as other, scholarship applications. For the MANA scholarship, your personal statement is essential to helping reviewers get to know you. It will help readers learn about your educational goals and career aspirations and how this scholarship will help you with your educational pursuits. Finally, it demonstrates your qualifications and your commitment to your education. Keep in mind that it's ok if you don't yet know exactly what you want to study. For many of us, discovering what we wanted to study was part of the college experience. If you do know, that's great! But it is equally important for us to read about your commitment to learning and pursuing a college degree.

Who will read my personal statement?

Your personal statement will likely be reviewed and read by community members affiliated with the organization providing the scholarship. For MANA, this will be volunteers who are closely connected with MANA and want to ensure our future has strong, educated, and community-oriented Latinas. It is important to know about the organization that is providing the scholarship because those reading applications and personal statements are looking for values and promise that align with their mission.

How do I start?

Your personal statement should be vibrant with details and examples. Be sure to answer the prompt that is given to you so that you can ensure a complete response and therefore a complete application.

Your personal statement should be no more than two single-spaced pages and should answer the following questions:

1. Briefly tell us about yourself.

In your response, consider what is your story? Who are you and why should readers remember you? Is there a theme to which you can tie your personal statement? For example:

- Giving back to your community
- Curiosity
- Creativity

Tip: If you are having trouble getting started, try writing for five minutes about who you are and what makes you unique. Try not to think too hard and try not to judge what you are writing. You may need to step away for a day and come back to writing with a clearer head. Talk to a mentor or teacher and share the personal statement prompt and an outline of how you plan to respond.

2. How will receiving this scholarship get you to your future goals?

In your response, share about the goals or ideas you have in mind. It's okay if you don't know yet exactly what your goals are.

3. Tell us about a leadership role you have held within the last 1-3 years.

In your response, consider that leadership is not always tied to a formal position, it is most importantly tied to action. What have you been involved in where you have demonstrated leadership?

- Service organizations
- Managing household or family responsibilities
- Specific leadership positions

Consider providing examples of how this leadership experience helped you:

- Learn and grow as a person/as a leader?
- Develop personal or professional skills?
- Learn about who you are?

4. Tell us if you are experiencing significant financial and/or personal hardship, specifically, what personal, mental health, or academic challenges have you experienced as a result of COVID-19?

In your response, consider providing examples of what you learned from these experiences and how they shaped who you are today. If these experiences influence your educational goals, include those examples in your statement.

Be Bold and Confident

You are applying for a college scholarship! This alone reflects how far you have come in your educational journey and you have much to be proud of and to share. Your personal statement is an opportunity to highlight your brilliance and share your unique story and accomplishments with reviewers. Whether your educational journey so far has been smooth or paved with a few bumps and pit stops along the way, let your unique qualities shine in your application.

How personal do you get in a personal statement?

Make sure what you share relates to the questions being asked and to your statement. If being raised in a single-parent home had an impact on your ability to participate in afterschool programs or register for expensive activities, share that information. Provide the reader context so they can get to know who you fully are and why your life may be unique from others. If you can connect this personal information to a reason for your drive and ambition, even better! Tell the reader why this may explain some of your experiences but does not solely define who you are and what you will be in the future.