



Know Your Funder

Know who they're looking for. Make sure you fit the eligibility requirements. Study the profiles of previous recipients: who won and why? Are you the kind of person they would choose?

Familiarize yourself with their mission. This will clue you into what kinds of skills or experiences you need to highlight. For example, the Truman Scholarship's mission is to recognize juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, nonprofits, or education. Knowing this mission tells you that you need to highlight your leadership experience and preparation for a career in public service.

Know your audience. Knowing who will read your statements clues you in on *how* to write them. Your audience could be a panel of scholars in your field, government officials, or the members of a professional organization. Knowing who you're addressing will help you determine the appropriate language, tone, and even the content of your application.

Understand their selection criteria (often noted on their website). The selection criteria are the rubric by which your statements will be assessed. As you develop your statements, you can "grade yourself" based on these criteria.

Watch the webinar. If the fellowship program has a webinar, watch it and take notes before you start writing.