The APIA Scholars applications have **4 essay prompts**, you need to **pick 3 to answer**. You have **500 words or less for each essay**.

- **Brainstorm!** Map it out, draw, create bullet points, freewrite– do whatever works for you to get your thoughts on paper at first.
- **Spend time on your essays** – you may not need all 500 words to answer each, but you will need more than a few sentences.
- **Ask family, friends, teachers and others you trust to read over your essays.** Do they see the unique and remarkable person you are shine through your answers?

**Essay 1:** Describe a time you were in a leadership role, how it went, and how your identity might impact how you lead.

**Focus on:** what you think your leadership style is and what lessons you learned in a leadership role.

**Essay 2:** Tell us about something you created or built, what the process was like, and what meaning it had.

**Focus on:** what the process was like, what did you gain from sharing (or not), and what made it valuable to you.

**Essay 3:** Describe what you want to accomplish in college, why you have these goals and how you plan to achieve them.

**Focus on:** what you want from college, how you want to get it, and who you want to become.

**Essay 4:** Discuss an issue of importance to you, why it’s important to you, and how your APIA identity might play a part.

**Focus on:** Something you are passionate about, big or small, and why you are so passionate about it.

**Tips for Letters of Recommendation**

Letters of recommendation give us an opportunity to **learn about you from a different perspective**. We want to know a bit of your story from someone who has seen what a remarkable person you are!

- **Pick someone who knows you well** and can speak to your character as a person and community member.
  - A teacher, a supervisor at a job or volunteer position, a coach, a mentor, a spiritual leader are all possibilities. **A relative cannot be your recommender.**
- **Do not wait until the last minute!** Ask your preferred recommender as soon as you begin filling out the application.
- **Have a backup recommender in mind**, if your first choice is unable to submit a letter.

- **The recommendation form is online only** – make sure your recommender is aware/comfortable with this.
- **Double check your recommender’s contact information** before you put it into your application.
- **Check in with your recommender** to make sure they have submitted their letter before the deadline.
- **Be open to a conversation** with your recommender about you, your accomplishments and your goals to help inform their letter.

- **Does your recommender need some tips?** Visit our Applicant Resources at https://apiascholars.org