

Overcoming Obstacles Rubric

Score	Application Presentation	Citizenship Essay	Letters of Recommendation	Activities/Leadership/	Community Impact
0-1 Points	<p>Application package is incomplete with missing required documents</p> <p>Multiple spelling/grammatical errors significantly affect readability</p> <p>File naming or submission format incorrect</p>	<p>Essay exceeds 1000-word limit or provides insufficient insight into obstacles overcome</p> <p>Lacks clear connection between challenges faced and citizenship development</p> <p>Does not demonstrate personal growth or resilience</p>	<p>Recommendations do not address the applicant's resilience or growth</p> <p>Generic letters that don't reflect understanding of obstacles overcome</p> <p>Missing required number of letters</p>	<p>Few examples of involvement despite challenges</p> <p>No evidence of using experiences to help others</p> <p>Activities lack connection to personal journey or community service</p>	<p>Little evidence of personal transformation</p> <p>Obstacles mentioned but growth not demonstrated</p> <p>No connection between challenges and developing empathy/citizenship</p>
2-3 Points	<p>Application is complete with minor presentation issues</p> <p>Some spelling/grammatical errors present but do not significantly impact readability</p> <p>Proper formatting followed</p>	<p>Essay clearly identifies significant obstacles and demonstrates good personal growth</p> <p>Shows solid connection between challenges and citizenship development</p> <p>Demonstrates resilience and determination in pursuing goals</p>	<p>Recommendations acknowledge the applicant's challenges and growth</p> <p>Some specific examples of resilience and character development</p> <p>From sources who understand the applicant's journey</p>	<p>Good examples of involvement despite personal challenges</p> <p>Some evidence of using experiences to support or mentor others</p> <p>Demonstrates commitment to community despite obstacles</p>	<p>Clear evidence of personal growth and maturity</p> <p>Shows how challenges developed empathy and civic awareness</p> <p>Demonstrates positive attitude and determination</p>
4-5 Points	<p>Application is professionally presented and complete</p> <p>Excellent spelling/grammar throughout</p> <p>All submission requirements perfectly followed</p> <p>Easy to navigate and well-organized</p>	<p>Essay powerfully articulates significant obstacles and exceptional personal growth</p> <p>Compelling narrative of resilience and determination</p> <p>Clear demonstration of how challenges strengthened citizenship values</p> <p>Inspirational while remaining authentic and humble</p>	<p>Strong, detailed recommendations that speak to extraordinary resilience</p> <p>Specific examples of how applicant overcame challenges</p> <p>Evidence of how applicant's journey has inspired others</p> <p>From sources who have witnessed the transformation</p>	<p>Outstanding examples of leadership and service despite significant challenges</p> <p>Evidence of using personal experiences to create support systems for others</p> <p>Demonstrates exceptional commitment to helping others facing similar obstacles</p>	<p>Exceptional personal transformation and maturity</p> <p>Clear evidence of how obstacles developed extraordinary empathy and civic responsibility</p> <p>Serves as inspiration and support for others facing challenges</p> <p>Demonstrates wisdom beyond years</p>