

# Open Category & Indigenous Ancestry Category Rubric

*Note: Indigenous Ancestry category uses the same rubric below. Applicants must note Indigenous ancestry on their application form and may use cultural connections as part of their citizenship contributions*

Score	Application Presentation	Citizenship Essay	Letters of Recommendation	Activities/Leadership Service	Community Impact
<b>0-1 Points</b>	<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 applicant's values and commitment</p> <p>Lacks clear examples of citizenship contributions</p> <p>Does not address future plans</p>	<p>Recommendations are weak, generic, or do not accurately reflect achievements outlined in essay</p> <p>References from inappropriate sources</p> <p>Missing required number of letters</p>	<p>Few or no relevant examples of involvement</p> <p>No evidence of leadership roles or sustained commitment</p> <p>Activities lack connection to citizenship or community service</p>	<p>No measurable or observable outcomes described</p> <p>Contributions appear to benefit only the applicant</p> <p>No evidence of positive change in school/community</p>
<b>2-3 Points</b>	<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 within word limit and provides good insight into applicant's values and commitment</p> <p>Includes solid examples of citizenship activities</p> <p>Addresses future plans appropriately</p>	<p>Recommendations are adequate but generic</p> <p>Some alignment with essay content</p> <p>From appropriate sources (teachers, employers, community leaders)</p>	<p>Good examples of school/community involvement</p> <p>Some evidence of sustained participation (6+ mo.)</p> <p>Demonstrates basic leadership or active participation</p>	<p>Some evidence of positive outcomes from contributions</p> <p>Benefits extend beyond the applicant</p> <p>Demonstrates good understanding of community needs</p>
<b>4-5 Points</b>	<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 demonstrates exceptional insight into citizenship values</p> <p>Compelling examples of significant contributions</p> <p>Clear articulation of how experiences shaped character and future plans</p> <p>Stays within 1000-word limit while being comprehensive</p>	<p>Strong, detailed recommendations that provide specific examples</p> <p>Perfect alignment with essay content</p> <p>From highly credible sources who know the applicant well and describe this knowledge</p> <p>Highlight unique qualities and specific achievements</p>	<p>Outstanding examples of leadership and sustained commitment (12+ mo.)</p> <p>Multiple significant roles or initiatives</p> <p>Evidence of mentoring others or creating lasting programs</p> <p>Demonstrates innovation in addressing community needs</p>	<p>Clear, measurable positive outcomes</p> <p>Significant benefit to school/community</p> <p>Evidence of lasting change or influence</p> <p>Demonstrates exceptional understanding of civic responsibility</p>