



NEW APPLICATION ESSAY QUESTION EXAMPLES

HOW TO ANSWER ESSAY QUESTIONS OR PROMPTS:

We at the Caleb Scholars Program want to make sure that you are supported during this application process. Therefore, we are presenting some information about essay questions/prompts in general to help guide you and are providing specific example essays for our application's essay questions.

In responding to essay questions/prompts, it is always important to understand and note what a question is asking directly and indirectly. This is true in our scholarship's application materials as well as in other writing prompts you may encounter, such as job and scholarship applications and essay questions on exams.

Here are some tips that will help you effectively answer essay questions/prompts:

- Always read questions/prompts carefully and underline (circle, highlight, etc.) what specifically is being asked. Oftentimes, essay questions have multiple components.
- Think about what the "big picture" understanding that your essay is supposed to convey. Consider the purpose of the organization, job, or class, and what they may be trying to get at with their questions.
- For example, Caleb Scholars Program is specifically interested in supporting Inuit students who will advocate for and help with conservation issues in their chosen profession. Essays should answer the prompt *and* should give the Caleb Scholars Steering Committee a sense of how you in your chosen profession will help with conservation efforts.
- Make sure that all components you've identified (specific questions in prompts and "big picture") are covered in your essay.
- Use language directly from the prompt to help set up your answer and to help situate your readers.
- Use specific examples to help support and contextualize your answers.
- Make sure to proofread your essay. If you have time, wait a few hours (or longer) after you've "completed" your essay and then re-read it to catch errors or places where your sentences or organization may be confusing. If you are able, read your essay aloud to catch awkward places in your writing.
- It is important that you respect word limits if they are given and follow all other instructions.

Example Responses for Short Answer and Essay Questions

Short Answer Questions (up to 100 words):

1. *Are you tribally enrolled or a direct descendant of a tribal member from the Caleb Scholars Program service area (Norton Sound, NW Arctic, or Arctic Slope regions of Alaska)? Please specify tribe and enrollment status.*

I am Iñupiaq. However, I am not tribally enrolled because I do not meet the blood quantum requirements. I am listed as a “Shareholder Decedent” with NANA in the NW Arctic region. My mother Jane/Sura Smith, grandmother Alice/Qalla Smith, and great-grandparents John/Qulliq and June/Iqun Smith are/were enrolled with the Noorvik Native Community. (57 words)

2. *What is your connection to an Alaskan Arctic Inuit community in the Caleb Scholars Program service area?*

I am Iñupiaq. My mother was born in Kotzebue and has a mixed heritage. She grew up most of her life outside of Alaska, but she was raised with her Iñupiaq culture by her mom, my aana. I was raised outside of Alaska but my mom brought me home frequently for fishing and berry picking seasons and for holidays so that I would know my large Iñupiat family and culture. I know a little bit of Iñupiatun from my aana and mom and grew up eating our traditional foods and hearing our stories. I am proud of my Iñupiaq heritage. (100 words)

Essay Question (100 - 300 words):

3. *What does Inuit-led conservation advocacy mean to you, and how will your education help to support it?*

Inuit-led conservation advocacy, for me, means that Inuit—the traditional stewards of the lands—are who make the decisions when it comes to what conservation advocacy looks like in their regions. Our people have the tools, knowledge, and ability to understand and fight for what is needed to continue our stewardship of our lands.

I am studying mechanical engineering, which might not sound like it easily connects to conservation advocacy but it does! I grew up learning about Inuit technology from my aana because her father’s Iñupiaq name was Qulliq, which means seal oil lamp. The qulliq was an important technology to our people because they provided heat for warmth and cooking, and were even early warning systems for high carbon monoxide levels in sod houses. This is just one technology that our people made.

In my mechanical engineering classes, I'm learning about efficient design and production that helps prevent over-consumption of natural resources and reduces waste. Learning these things are important to how I can help my Inuit community.

As climate change issues continue, we will need to develop technologies to respond to climate change effects in Arctic communities. I believe we will need to respond to issues like communities having to move because of rising sea levels with technology. I want Inuit to lead their design processes so that technology is both well-designed and makes sense to our communities. It is in Inuit communities in Alaska, such as Kivalina, that many of these technologies will be tested, and so the values and needs of these communities should also inspire their design.

As a mechanical engineer, I will be able to use my work to help Inuit communities by designing and advocating for technology that helps us with dealing with climate change without causing more environmental problems. (296 words)