



Aspen University

Black Education Matters Scholarship Essay Assignment and Rubric

Essay Requirements: Describe a time when you helped bridge an existing divide among people groups, or flattened the social inequities inherent in society. This could be in the community, at school, in church/synagogue/mosque, or at home. In your essay, please explain:

- What was the problem you saw?
- How did you feel about it?
- What did you do to contribute to solving the problem?
- Why are you passionate about this issue?

This activity should naturally reflect the first provision of the [American Nursing Association's Code of Ethics](#): "The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and personal attributes of every person, without prejudice." When describing the activity, please also answer the following questions:

- How does your activity reflect this?
- How might participation in this activity contribute to making you a great nurse?

Examples might include, but are not limited to, working regularly in a soup kitchen, organizing a clothing/book/school supplies drive, organizing tutoring classes in a Boys & Girls Club, or being a literacy volunteer at the library.

Additional Requirements: The following are required components of the assignment submission:

- Title page that includes name, date, and essay title
- 1000 word minimum (4 pages) to 1250 word maximum (5 pages)
- Body is organized well to address components of Essay Description above.
- Typed, double spaced, with introduction and conclusion
- Appropriate use of English language
- Includes photos of student activity
- Includes completed Black Education Matters Application document
- Includes a copy of a driver's license or an approved state identification.
- Includes at least one note of confirmation from a third party non-family member who can verify prospective student's described activity, e.g. director of soup kitchen.

Assignment Rubric: Your essay submission will be scored on the following rubric. You are encouraged to review the rubric throughout assignment development.

Assignment Criteria	Does Not Meet 1	Approaches 2	Meets 3	Exceeds 4
Criterion: Content	Topic is inappropriate to essay criteria, inaccurate understanding of concepts, unclear and difficult to understand; does not address many assignment requirements. Information has weak or no connection to the assignment topic.	Topic is mostly covered and appropriate to essay criteria; mostly clear and understandable; lacks some of the requirements of the essay description and/or provides little detail; Information relates to the main topic, but few details and/or examples are given.	Topic is covered completely and appropriate to essay criteria; overview of key concept dimensions is evident; clear and understandable; addresses all of the requirements of the essay description, with adequate attention to detail. Includes photos.	In-depth coverage of topic; outstanding clarity and explanation of activity demonstrated in information presented; approaches essay criteria with depth and breadth, without redundancy, using clear and focused details. Photos enhance narrative.
Criterion: Organization	Organization is confusing and interferes with reader's ability to follow ideas. Weak or no introduction of topic or purpose is unclear, weak, or missing. Conclusion lacks a summary of topic, or is missing or irrelevant.	Ideas are sometimes disorganized or irrelevant; Flow is sometimes choppy; somewhat clear organization. Basic introduction that states topic but is presented in an uninteresting way. Conclusion contains basic summary of topic without final concluding ideas, may inappropriately introduces new information.	Structures ideas in a coherent, organized order that has good flow and an obvious framework. Proficient introduction that is interesting and states topic. Conclusion contains good summary of topic with credible concluding ideas and introduces no new information.	Exceptionally clear, logical, mature, and thorough organization permitting smooth flow of ideas; Introduction that grabs interest of reader and states topic in clear, unambiguous terms. Excellent concluding summary with succinct and precise ideas that impact reader.
Criterion: Quality of Writing	Style and voice inappropriate or do not address given audience, purpose, etc. Word choice is excessively redundant, clichéd, and unspecific. Inconsistent grammar, spelling, punctuation, and paragraphing. Surface errors are pervasive enough that they impede communication of meaning.	Style and voice are somewhat appropriate to given audience and purpose. Word choice is often unspecific, generic, redundant, and clichéd. Repetitive mechanical errors distract the reader. Inconsistencies in language, sentence structure, and/or word choice are present.	Style and voice are appropriate to the given audience and purpose. Word choice is specific and purposeful, and somewhat varied throughout. Minimal mechanical or typographical errors are present, but are not overly distracting to the reader. Correct sentence structure and audience-appropriate language are used.	Style and voice are not only appropriate to the given audience and purpose, but also show originality and creativity. Word choice is specific, purposeful, dynamic and varied. Free of mechanical and typographical errors. A variety of sentence structures and effective figures of speech are used. Writer is clearly in command of standard, written, academic English.