

Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Awards Selection Criteria

These selection criteria assist in the consistent evaluation of the Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award applicants at the club, district/region and international levels.

This document is for internal use only and is not intended for distribution to schools or to applicants.

1. Activities related to your school/workplace. Please include (a) your leadership experience, and (b) what you find most rewarding or valuable about your participation in these activities.

First and foremost, the answer to this question should make known the extracurricular activities the applicant participates in, her commitment to these activities and why she participates. Those candidates who participate in public-service oriented student activities, especially in leadership positions, will stand out among the rest. For example, a candidate who participates primarily in athletics or drama will probably not measure up to a candidate who has founded a club that sponsors award-winning, volunteer-based literacy programs and/or has been elected by her peers to lead her school (e.g. student council president).

2. Activities not related to your school/workplace. Describe the activities in which you participate as a volunteer that benefit other causes and any leadership roles you have had in those activities. Please include with these activities a description of any experience in local government, international, or other projects.

Here the answer should demonstrate the candidate's commitment to community service-based activities through description of specific examples. The evaluation committee is not necessarily looking for someone who has participated in a great number of community service organizations. Often, the best candidates have made concrete achievements through their public service activity through just one or two special fields. The evaluation committee should pay particular attention to whether and how the second part of the question is answered.

3. International Awareness. Describe the activities that you participate in which increase your experience, knowledge and understanding of other countries and their different customs.

Some of these activities could be: learning foreign languages, joining multicultural clubs or groups, participating in international youth camps, seminars, study tours, student exchanges, etc. Activities may also include working with immigrants or refugees. The evaluation committee should consider whether the candidate's information is only a listing of activities, or whether the description expresses the knowledge or experience she has gained through these activities.

4. Status of Women in your Country

Describe your experience in empowering women through service and advocacy. Are there any issues which hinder women's empowerment in your country? Describe your ideas as to how they should be resolved.

Candidates are asked to consider the status of women in their own countries and worldwide. There will not be "correct" answers to this question. A good answer; however, will be well thought out. It will articulate the problems or obstacles that limit the empowerment of women in the candidate's particular country and suggest possible solutions and strategies to meet those obstacles.