

THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation of the Bay Area

\$7,000 Koshland Young Leader Award Nomination Form

SAMPLE NARRATIVE RESPONSES

ABOUT THE NOMINEE:

4. Why do you think this student is a strong candidate for the Koshland Young Leader Award? How does this student embody the spirit of the award?

I have selected Jane Doe to be considered for a Koshland Young Leader award because I believe she encompasses what it means to be a leader. Self motivated, self-driven, and a self-starter, Jane takes her future educational and career goals seriously. She makes improvements where it is needed and finds a way to balance both her academic and her extracurricular life. She works an after school job to help her family out, involves herself in her cultural community as well as her school community, making time to volunteer on the weekends, staying late to organize events through the clubs she is involved in. She works extra hard in her classes and always makes time to improve her language and communication skills by taking on leadership positions in after school clubs and community organizations. She leads workshops for peers in the Excellence Program where she is employed and is never one to be afraid to voice her opinions or thoughts. Always punctual, dedicated, and bold in the face of obstacles and barriers including coming from an immigrant family with a struggling socio-economic background, Jane is a positive force of energy and is truly a strong candidate for a Koshland Young Leader Award.

5. Describe your relationship with the student and how long you have known him or her.

I am a counselor at San Francisco High School and have known Jane since her Freshman year. I have had the opportunity to meet with Jane often and have developed a good relationship with her. Since Jane will be the first person in her family to go to college, she must make many tough decisions that affect her future on her own. Thus, she asks thought-provoking questions about classes and college and is incredibly tactful in doing so.

6. Describe the student’s level of academic achievement and attitude towards school. Please include information about whether or not the student's high school coursework provides a solid foundation for college.

Jane possesses a strong desire to perform well academically in high school in order to attend a competitive four-year college or university. Jane strives to achieve high scores in all of her classes to maintain a high GPA and to establish a solid foundation for the strenuous schedule that college will eventually present. I have learned that Jane is constantly thinking ahead. She understands that the purpose of school is not only a learning tool, but a tool to teach her discipline, hard work, and sacrifice. Jane has shown me that she uses every resource to find the answer to any of her questions, and her quest for knowledge is reflected in her high academic scores. Jane also takes two Advanced Placement classes, one honors class, and an additional seminar and receives little or no family support. I often see her working diligently after school in the library to complete homework assignments as best as possible prior to leaving the campus.

7. Describe the responsibilities that the student takes on at home or elsewhere on an ongoing basis (e.g. number of siblings, provide translation for family, chores, financial responsibilities, etc.).

As one of the top students in her class, one would never guess that Jane experiences what she does at home. She currently lives in a one room apartment with her family of seven people. Next month, she is not sure where her family will live, as

they have been unable to make the rent. Jane uses her money she earns at her two jobs to buy her younger siblings clothing. Jane remembers being teased for being poor when she was younger and hopes to help her younger siblings avoid that experience. Her commitment as a caretaker of her family as a junior in high school is symbolic of her kind spirit and willingness to make the best of tough circumstances.

8. List any school or community activities in which the student participates and/or demonstrates leadership.

One of her many accomplishments includes running for and winning class treasurer in her Sophomore year. As class treasurer, she had a lot of input in coordinating school events and promoting school spirit. As a member of the most well known club at school, the Hospitality Club, Jane is an active participant. Hospitality Club members are extraordinarily dedicated to positively representing San Francisco High School. They are ambassadors to the school and are the backbone to setting up for all school events. Jane’s persistence and determination are truly apparent as one of the lead persons in the club. Jane is well respected by her peers as well as the staff and faculty at San Francisco High School. Jane has no qualms about going out and helping those in the community who are in a vulnerable state. Even in the summer, when most students are out taking a break and enjoying themselves, she will spend her vacation time volunteering at a homeless shelter.

9. Is the student employed? If so, describe what you know about the student’s employment (e.g. length of time employed, type of work, hours)

Jane currently works two jobs. She works at the San Francisco Community Center and the school’s Excellence Program for about 20-25 hours a week. However, because of this, her time management is some of the most advanced I have seen for a high school student – procrastination is not in her vocabulary because she knows she cannot afford to procrastinate.

10. What aspirations does the student have regarding future educational or career goals?

Jane aspires to attend a highly competitive college when he leaves high school. All her course work thus far has put her on the four-year-university track, and she has taken advantage of these opportunities as best she can. When I first learned of Jane’s challenging life circumstances, I told her that almost any other person would use the hardships as an excuse, a reason to give up or to ask for special treatment. I don’t remember her exact words, but I remember her message. She basically said that giving up is not an option for her. She knows that success in school and beyond is the only way out for her. It’s the only way she knows she can make things better for her family. And taking advantage of the opportunities she has to succeed makes her life better and makes it possible for her to help others as well.