

# Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Brainstorming Worksheet

## Application Requirements

In addition to the [online application](#), you'll need to submit **3 essays**: a Statement of Purpose and 2 Community Impact essays. The Critical Need Language and STEM supplemental awards are optional and require additional short essays.

## Writing Tips

- Review [sample essays](#) .
- Be precise on your goals and use clear, concise language.
- Focus on the **first sentence and introduction paragraph**. Reviewers read many essays so a strong hook could set you apart.
- Choose compelling words that paint a picture of **who you are as a person**.
- Give **concrete examples**.
- Mention the Gilman Scholarship by name.
- **Avoid jargon**: don't assume the reader knows about Temple University, your major or your planned courses.
- **Proofread**: Spellcheck does not catch everything! Go to the Writing Center or attend a Gilman early to proofread the essay before you submit it. Use your resources!
- **Be creative and true to your goals and purpose**.

*Tip: Reviewers are reading hundreds of essays, so a longer essay is not necessarily a better essay. Do your best to make sure you address each prompt in clear detail.*

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## Considerations for the Essay Prompts

### Statement of Purpose

#### [Statement of Purpose Essay Prompts](#)

*Consider:*

- how aspects of **your background or identity shaped your experiences, academic or career goals**. This could include race/cultural/ethnic background; immigration status / experience growing up in an immigrant family; first-generation college student; person with a physical or mental disability; member of the LGBTQIA community, veteran, part of an underrepresented group in your future field, etc.
- **challenges you have faced in your life** that have motivated and inspired you to keep reaching your goals (e.g. working to help support your family)
- **how your academic background has prepared you for the program** through specific course work, and how the specific courses you plan to take abroad, or the skills or knowledge you'll

gain, or other experiences you'll have on the program (e.g. homestays/internships/volunteers), will serve your future career goals

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## Building Mutual Understanding Essays

Gilman Scholars represent the United States as citizen diplomats in their host communities; they reflect a diversity of values, beliefs, and opinions that is fundamental to providing a balanced representation of the United States abroad. Gilman Scholars are expected to contribute to the goal of **building mutual understanding by sharing what it means to be an American, learning about the host culture, and building meaningful relationships.**

### [Community Impact Essay Prompt](#)

*Consider:*

- **how your cultural background / heritage influences your perspective as an American Citizen**, ways you might share that with others in the community you visit and seek to learn from them in return. Cite specific opportunities that will allow you to do so on your program (homestays, volunteer opportunities, seeking out conversations).

### [Follow-On Service Project Proposal Prompt](#)

*Consider:*

- your target audience (students from immigrant populations, first generation students or those from other underrepresented groups); student clubs in which you are a member or even organizations you could reach outside of your college (perhaps where you volunteer).
- What format you would choose for your presentation or activity

[Sample Follow-On Service Projects](#)

## Optional Supplemental Award Essays

- [STEM Supplemental Award](#)
  - [Critical Need Language Award](#)
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## Next Steps: Draft your essays

Draft your essays with help from the Student Success Center and the Scholar Development and Fellowships Advising office.

### [Student Success Center-Writing Tutoring](#)

- Schedule a Zoom session online to book same-day sessions or up to 8 days in advance.

[Scholar Development and Fellowship Advising](#) (Click 'Meet with Us')

-Appointments via [Handshake](#). Select Fellowships Advising, and then "Gilman Express Review "