

Know Yourself and the Organization: Be specific.

Questions to ask yourself as you apply for fellowships, grants, graduate school, study abroad, and questions to ask about the Organization

What in My Past Has Motivated Me?

- When did you become interested in this topic? Location? Subject? Field of study?
- What have you learned about it (and about yourself) that has further stimulated your interest and reinforced your conviction that you are well suited to this field? What insights have you gained?
- What incidents in your past helped shape the person you are today?
- Have teachers, mentors, coaches, family members influenced or motivated you?
- Has a risk, failure, or obstacle become an asset?
- What experiences have prepared you for this opportunity? What has led you here to the point of applying for x opportunity?

Who Am I Today?

- You are seeking money, acceptance, an opportunity—what are you bringing?
- What makes the person you are now worth this investment?
- Are you responsible? Trustworthy? Daring? Able to get along with all types of people? Give examples.
- What is the story you want to tell that is NOT a biographical narrative?
- Why do you want this? Why **THIS** opportunity (school, program, etc)?
- What are the most compelling reasons you can give for the review committee to be interested in you?

Where Do You Want to Go?

- What are your future goals?
- What is your intended future use of this opportunity (e.g. grad school)?
- How would this opportunity help you get there? Where do you hope to be at its conclusion? What will you be prepared to do?
- Think specifically. Just about everyone wants to save the world, meet new people, promote understanding, and grow intellectually. What's different, specific, individual about your goals?
- What impact do you want to have? Can you articulate a mission that demonstrates clarity and focus?

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Where Am I applying?

- What do I know about this graduate program, fellowship, internship?
- Have I looked at their website? Have I checked out brochures, literature, application forms?

What Questions Are They Asking?

- Am I answering specifically the prompts and questions?
- Am I keeping to the word limit?
- Am I following directions for how to prepare materials for consideration?
- Am I observing deadlines?

Who Am I Consulting?

- Have I consulted with faculty members? anyone in CCI? in Fellowships? In Undergraduate Research?
- Have I spoken to anyone else who has applied to graduate school or for this internship or fellowship?
- Do I need help with my writing? Should I consult with a peer or professional writing tutor at CTLR?