



## 5 TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR HERLEAD APPLICATION

### WRITTEN BY:

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Hey girl! My name is Jessica Soule and I am from British Columbia, Canada. My passion is mental health and harm reduction, and I facilitate community workshops to have conversations and make space for education. I was a 2019 HERlead Fellow and the experience was absolutely incredible. I'm so excited that you are applying to the program! The HERlead Fellowship family is such an amazing group of young women who are changing the world every day!

Congratulations on taking the first step and researching how to write the HERlead application. There is no doubt that the HERlead Fellowship is a life-changing experience for any forward-focused, and community-oriented girl, so it's important to show your passion throughout the application. Good luck!

Everyone has a unique and beautiful story that made them into who they are. This is the easiest place to start, and it can give you a great idea of what you want your application to look like holistically. It can be helpful to mind-map or brainstorm in some way. I would suggest writing down a quote or some words that speak to you and your passion, and keeping these in front of you when you work on your application. Before you start, it's a good idea to format a resume or other running list of all your accomplishments so that you're putting in all the right information.

### TELL YOUR STORY 1

### 2 SELL YOURSELF

Don't be shy! This application is the opportunity to set yourself apart from a thousand other applicants. Sell yourself- what can *you* add to the program? What skills have you developed through your community work and other experiences, and how have those helped you grow? You can talk about past achievements that relate to your application, but don't just "name drop" for the sake of it. The more genuine you are, the more your application will stand out as uniquely yours! There is no "one thing" that the review team is looking for except for a passionate young woman with potential to learn a lot from HERlead and to positively contribute to their community.

Don't doubt yourself: you go, girl! As women and change-makers, we face a lot of people who don't like what we are doing. Don't let them phase you! We are often our own worst enemy and biggest critic, and we forget that 'failing' can actually be a positive thing. Take everything as a learning experience, and look at your application through that lens. I would also suggest not comparing your project to past fellows - everyone is unique and that's what will shine through in your application.

Take a moment to think about your goals: how do you want to move forward with your project and with your life? How will HERlead help you with that? Once you look at what aspects of HERlead appeal to you, you can make sure that those are the things that you focus on in your application. How can you add to those aspects of the program?

**LOOK FORWARD.  
NOT BACK** **3**

## **4 ESTABLISH A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH TEACHERS, MENTORS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Make personal connections and network! This is so important, especially when it comes to letters of recommendation. Connect with your teachers and school administrators, and keep them up to date about what you are doing in the community. Whomever you work with in

your community can also be a really good reference for university and scholarship applications. I have found that a good way of keeping track of my connections is through LinkedIn. Also, sending your network of contacts articles or posts that may be of interest to them, keeps you top of mind. Always try to ask for letters of recommendation in person, and ensure that you tell them what you would like out of the letter such as a focus on leadership, academics, etc.

First, re-read your application out loud (that's the key!) to ensure that you're not repeating yourself and that your application tells a story. Then, have someone else read it and tell you what they think. Pay particular attention to grammar, spelling, consistency, etc. I would suggest re-reading the application requirements once more before you submit the application to ensure that you have all the information that is asked of you. It's not just about the language you use: make sure that your message is coherent throughout, and that your best self shines through.

**PROOFREAD.  
PROOFREAD.  
PROOFREAD** **5**

**Good luck! I look forward to welcoming you to the HERlead family.**