



FREE RESOURCE

BYU Recommender Prep Doc Templates + Example

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Hey there!

We're excited to share our **BYU Recommender Prep Document** with you. It's based on years of experience helping applicants earn spots at top universities. This document, of course, is just the tip of the iceberg. At Leland, we're committed to offering quality content and world-class coaching, and at a price that fits your budget.

College admissions are only getting more competitive and the many different applications can be overwhelming. At Leland, we want to make sure that everyone has access to coaching at a price that works for them.

To that end, we guarantee that **we can find you a world-class coach that fits your budget, background, and goals within 48 hours**. No one else in the world can do that.

So, let's get started. You can [sign up for Leland here](#) and [schedule a free strategy session](#) so we can match you with the right coach.

Below, you'll find three recommender prep docs, one for each of the recommendations required by BYU: high school teacher, seminary teacher, and a third, "other" recommender. There is also a complete example at the very bottom that you can use as inspiration as you craft your own prep docs. Replace the sentences that are **highlighted in green** with your own information. You can keep the overall structure, but we recommend changing the wording so that it's authentically coming from you.

Good luck. Let's get you into BYU!

John and the Leland Team

BYU Recommender Prep Doc: Seminary

[Seminary Teacher],

Thanks again for all of your help and support in this application process. I really appreciate your willingness to make time for this in your busy schedule. I wanted to create this document to (1) provide more info on the current recommendation process, (2) offer some ideas for content, and (3) make this as easy and straightforward as possible.

In the end, your authenticity and perspective will be the most important aspect of a strong letter, but I figured providing you with some direction would be helpful. Let me know if you have any other questions!

Process

I am applying for the priority deadline of BYU, which is November 1, 2022.

Recommendations are submitted via the school's online application system. I'll send your name and email to BYU and they will send you an email with a link to the recommendation form. That form will ask you to rate me on a number of different characteristics and answer a brief, open-ended question.

Content

In general, BYU is looking for students who will demonstrate all the traits of the BYU AIMS, which are as follows:

1. *Spiritually Strengthening* – They recommend applicants graduate from LDS seminary and are spiritually prepared before coming to BYU. The goal of the school is to provide a spiritually uplifting environment in which to gain an education.
2. *Intellectually Enlarging* – BYU wants applicants who take academically rigorous courses and who stay involved in passions inside and outside of school.
3. *Character Building* – Applicants should be just as strong morally as they are mentally; they should have a solid work ethic, be resilient, and be honest.
4. *Lifelong Learning and Service* – One unofficial motto of BYU is, "Enter to learn, go forth to serve." Service is a major component of the school, and applicants should have a love of and commitment to serving others.

To this end, I have created a list of attributes that I plan to highlight in my essays, which you could reinforce as my recommender. Obviously, this is a personal view of my strengths; please feel free to amend or adjust any of these examples and, of course, add personal insights to the recommendation.

Here are several of the characteristics that you'll be asked about:

- **Resolves concerns without parental intervention**
 - Characteristics that you demonstrate related to this point
 - Ideas and examples
- **Demonstrates integrity, trustworthy, fulfills commitments**
 - Characteristics that you demonstrate related to this point
 - Ideas and examples
 - Cont. for each trait

- **Makes it safe for fellow students to participate in class and share observations**
 - Examples
- **Demonstrates that attending and participating in seminary is a high priority**
 - Examples
- **Demonstrates that studying the gospel is a high priority**
 - Examples

As mentioned, you'll also be asked to provide a brief response to the following open-ended question:

- **Is there anything else we should know about the applicant?**
 - List out several other characteristics *with examples* that you believe fit you and that you would like them to recommend. They can be either other traits not mentioned yet that you want them to highlight or ones that corroborate your personal insight question responses.

Thank you again for taking the time to write this recommendation and supporting me in this process. I'll check in with you closer to the deadline, but please let me know if any questions arise in the meantime.

- [Your Name]

BYU Recommender Prep Doc: High School Teacher

[High School Teacher],

Thanks again for all of your help and support in this application process. I really appreciate your willingness to make time for this in your busy schedule. I wanted to create this document to (1) provide more info on the current recommendation process, (2) offer some ideas for content, and (3) make this as easy and straightforward as possible.

In the end, your authenticity and perspective will be the most important aspect of a strong letter, but I figured providing you with some direction would be helpful. Let me know if you have any other questions!

Process

I am applying for the priority deadline of BYU, which is November 1, 2022.

Recommendations are submitted via the school's online application system. I'll send your name and email to BYU and they will send you an email with a link to the recommendation form. That form will ask you to rate me on a number of different characteristics and answer a brief, open-ended question.

Content

In general, BYU is looking for students who will demonstrate all the traits of the BYU AIMS, which are as follows:

1. *Spiritually Strengthening* – They recommend applicants graduate from LDS seminary and are spiritually prepared before coming to BYU. The goal of the school is to provide a spiritually uplifting environment in which to gain an education.
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4. *Lifelong Learning and Service* – One unofficial motto of BYU is, "Enter to learn, go forth to serve." Service is a major component of the school, and applicants should have a love of and commitment to serving others.

To this end, I have created a list of attributes that I plan to highlight in my essays, which you could reinforce as my recommender. Obviously, this is a personal view of my strengths; please feel free to amend or adjust any of these examples and, of course, add personal insights to the recommendation.

Here are several of the characteristics that you'll be asked about:

- **Resolves concerns without parental intervention**
 - Characteristics that you demonstrate related to this point
 - Ideas and examples
- **Demonstrates integrity, trustworthy, fulfills commitments**
 - Characteristics that you demonstrate related to this point
 - Ideas and examples
 - Cont. for each trait

- **Makes it safe for fellow students to participate in class and share observations**
 - **Examples**
- **Assignments are high quality and turned in on time; larger assignments are well-planned and not thrown together at the last minute**
 - **Examples**
- **Problem-solving ability; sound thinking**
 - **Examples**
- **Proactively seeks help when facing a challenge**
 - **Examples**

As mentioned, you'll also be asked to provide a brief response to the following open-ended question:

- **What evidence do you see of the applicant challenging themselves academically? Be specific.**
 - Provide several examples of times you've challenged yourself academically that the teacher would be able to support. For example, did you do really well on a difficult assignment that teacher gave you? Did you take a tough AP course from one and do well on the exam? Did you participate in DECA or another academic club where there were academic requirements outside of regular school hours?

Thank you again for taking the time to write this recommendation and supporting me in this process. I'll check in with you closer to the deadline, but please let me know if any questions arise in the meantime.

- [Your Name]

BYU Recommender Prep Doc: Other Recommender

[Other Recommender],

Thanks again for all of your help and support in this application process. I really appreciate your willingness to make time for this in your busy schedule. I wanted to create this document to (1) provide more info on the current recommendation process, (2) offer some ideas for content, and (3) make this as easy and straightforward as possible.

In the end, your authenticity and perspective will be the most important aspect of a strong letter, but I figured providing you with some direction would be helpful. Let me know if you have any other questions!

Process

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Recommendations are submitted via the school's online application system. I'll send your name and email to BYU and they will send you an email with a link to the recommendation form. That form will ask you to rate me on a number of different characteristics and answer a brief, open-ended question.

Content

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To this end, I have created a list of attributes that I plan to highlight in my essays, which you could reinforce as my recommender. Obviously, this is a personal view of my strengths; please feel free to amend or adjust any of these examples and, of course, add personal insights to the recommendation.

Here are several of the characteristics that you'll be asked about:

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 - Characteristics that you demonstrate related to this point
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- **Demonstrates integrity, trustworthy, fulfills commitments**
 - Characteristics that you demonstrate related to this point
 - Ideas and examples
 - Cont. for each trait

- **Makes it safe for fellow students to participate in class and share observations**
 - Examples
- **Proactively seeks help when facing a challenge**
 - Examples
- **Sets and achieves challenging goals**
 - Examples

As mentioned, you'll also be asked to provide a brief response to the following open-ended question:

- **Based on how you rated the applicant, please share a time you have observed this applicant setting and achieving a challenging goal? Be specific.**
 - Think about challenges you've overcome that this recommender would have witnessed in some capacity and provide a few examples for them to draw inspiration from.

Thank you again for taking the time to write this recommendation and supporting me in this process. I'll check in with you closer to the deadline, but please let me know if any questions arise in the meantime.

- [Your Name]

Recommender Prep Example: High School Teacher (Do Not Copy)

Mr. Thomas,

Thank you so much for your help and support in this application process for business school. I really appreciate your willingness to make time for this in your busy schedules. I wanted to create this document to (1) explain the recommendation process (although I know you are probably familiar with it) (2) offer some ideas for content, and (3) make this as easy and straightforward as possible for you.

In the end, your authenticity and perspective will be the most important aspect of a strong letter, but I figured providing you with some direction would be helpful. Let me know if you have any other questions!

Process

I am applying for the priority deadline of BYU, which is November 1, 2022.

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4. *Lifelong Learning and Service* – One unofficial motto of BYU is, "Enter to learn, go forth to serve." Service is a major component of the school, and applicants should have a love of and commitment to serving others.

To this end, I have created a list of attributes that I plan to highlight in my essays, which you could reinforce as my recommender. Obviously, this is a personal view of my strengths; please feel free to amend or adjust any of these examples and, of course, add personal insights to the recommendation.

Here are several of the characteristics that you'll be asked about:

Resolves concerns without parental intervention

Considering that you direct our Debate Club, I don't think this question will be too difficult. The qualities I will talk about in my essays that are relevant to this point include leadership, initiative, and teamwork.

Example: Recently as you know, our debate team had the opportunity to go to the State Championship. There was a heated argument that ensued during practice between some of the members over the division of labor. Some of the team felt like they were being put aside and that others were being unfairly

privileged with more speaking time and authority. I stepped in during this argument and suggested that each team take an anonymous vote for who the team lead would be. That person would then work in tandem with the other members to make sure that everyone had equal responsibilities. After doing so, the argument was resolved and there were no more issues over speaking time.

Demonstrates integrity, trustworthy, fulfills commitments

Example: As part of the annual bake sale for cancer research, I volunteered to make flyers and put them around town in order to market the event. The organizer was very busy and didn't have time to oversee my work, so I was completely responsible for getting them up on time. I made the flyers early, got approval, and then made sure they were posted two weeks in advance. The bake sale had 50% more attendance than in previous years and I was asked by the organizer to help with future events.

Makes it safe for fellow students to participate in class and share observations

I'll leave this question up to you, as you had a clear line of sight into my behavior within classroom settings and I believe your perspective will be more powerful than any examples that I can offer.

Proactively seeks help when facing a challenge

As I spent a lot of time working through difficult problems in your class, I don't think this prompt should be too difficult either. I've included one example that demonstrates these qualities.

Example: At the beginning of the year, we covered trigonometric functions in your class and, as you're aware, I really struggled with several of the equations. I knew that it would be an important aspect of the AP test so I really wanted to master the concept. In order to proactively improve in this area of weakness, I went to your office hours for lunch for two weeks and worked through problems. I also asked for additional trigonometric homework and completed it after school in my free time. In doing so, I received an A on that chapter's test and—more importantly—mastered trigonometric functions.

Sets and achieves challenging goals

I have spent the last five years playing volleyball on school and club teams. While it started out as a hobby and something to do with my friends, I have since learned to love competing and working to improve my technical skills. Last year, I made it my goal to make the highest-tier team at my volleyball club. Over the summer, I went to the gym early in the morning to do weightlifting and then went to the courts to practice serving. When school started, I dedicated time every weekend toward working on my vertical. Tryouts for the club were about a month ago and I made it onto the team that I wanted.

As mentioned, you'll also be asked to provide a brief response to the following open-ended question:

Based on how you rated the applicant, please share a time you have observed this applicant setting and achieving a challenging goal? Be specific.

Because this question specifically asks you to talk about something that you yourself have observed, I will leave it to you. If you'd like to brainstorm with me, I'd be more than happy to come into your office.

Well that's it! I hope that was helpful, and like I said before, your perspective and authenticity is most important to a successful letter, so thank you for taking the time to write it. You have been such an excellent teacher and mentor to me and I really appreciate your help. Let me know if you have any other questions.

- Mary