



TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION

# TASS 2017

## TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION SOPHOMORE SEMINARS 2017 PROGRAM APPLICATION

June 25–August 5, 2017

### TO THE CANDIDATE

**T**elluride Association is pleased to invite you to apply for a place in the 2017 Telluride Association Sophomore Seminars! TASS aims to prepare students for a life of leadership and public service through an intense education in critical Black and ethnic studies, democratic self-governance, and communal living. All students attend our program on full scholarships. Additional need-based travel and work replacement scholarships are also available. While TASS welcomes applications from high school sophomores of all backgrounds, students from historically underrepresented groups—especially African Americans and those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds—are particularly encouraged to apply. You are receiving this mailing because a teacher, counselor, or someone else who knows you thinks that you meet the high standards required of those applicants admitted to our program.

The most important part of your application is your responses to the essay questions. However, the background information and short answers also provide important context for us when reading your application. Your application will be judged not only on your demonstrated talents and abilities, but also on your potential for future development and how TASS can contribute to that development. We hope you find the experience of writing the essays and short answers personally challenging and educationally rewarding. We promise a careful reading of whatever you submit. Roughly one-quarter of those who apply are invited for interviews, and about half of the applicants interviewed will be offered places in our 2017 program.

We encourage applicants to apply online, if possible. The online application and more information about the programs—including descriptions of the seminars offered this year—can be found at [tass.tellurideassociation.org](http://tass.tellurideassociation.org). Applications must be postmarked or submitted online by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on **Tuesday, January 10, 2017**. Answers to some of the most common questions about the application and the program can be found at [tellurideassociation.org/tass\\_faq](http://tellurideassociation.org/tass_faq). If you have further inquiries, please direct them to [tass-queries@tellurideassociation.org](mailto:tass-queries@tellurideassociation.org) or call 607.273.5011 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. EST. We hope you will decide to apply for this life-changing educational experience!

Sincerely,

Breanna Byington, Chair  
Applications and Recruitment Committee

Ellen Baer, Administrative Director  
Telluride Association  
607.273.5011, [telluride@tellurideassociation.org](mailto:telluride@tellurideassociation.org)

**Apply online!**

[tass.tellurideassociation.org](http://tass.tellurideassociation.org)

**Or mail  
your completed  
application to:**

Administrative Director  
Telluride Association  
217 West Avenue  
Ithaca, NY 14850

# 1 PART

I certify that I will answer the following questions accurately and to the best of my ability and that all submitted essays and short answers are my own.

Your signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_  
last first middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
street address

\_\_\_\_\_ city state zip code country

Type of community:  Rural  Suburban  Urban  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: home: \_\_\_\_\_ cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to reach you to schedule an interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Is English your primary language at home?  Yes  No

If no, what is your primary home language? \_\_\_\_\_

What languages other than English do you speak or read fluently? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your race or ethnic identity in a few words (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Select the closest corresponding category from the following list (optional):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African/Black          | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biracial/Multiracial   | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Asian             | <input type="checkbox"/> South Asian      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European/White         | <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Asian  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Latina/Latino/Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |

Are you in a single-parent family?  Yes  No

Do you or would you qualify for a Federal free or reduced-price lunch program?  Yes  No

Have you participated in a program through the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation?  Yes  No

How did you hear about our program?

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mail    | <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email   | <input type="checkbox"/> Family      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PSAT    | <input type="checkbox"/> Website     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend  | <input type="checkbox"/> News Media  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

If you were nominated by a teacher or guidance counselor, please provide the following information:

\_\_\_\_\_ name

\_\_\_\_\_ relationship email address



TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION

# TASS

TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION  
SOPHOMORE SEMINARS

**2017 PROGRAM APPLICATION**

June 25–August 5, 2017

**For Office Use Only**

DB \_\_\_\_\_

Officer: Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

Program:

\_\_\_\_\_ Cornell I

\_\_\_\_\_ Cornell II

\_\_\_\_\_ Michigan I

\_\_\_\_\_ Michigan II

**Please note:**  
**When you photocopy this application, place this page on top. (over)**



# PART 2

These essays and short answers are the primary basis for our admissions decisions. Please ensure your responses are thoughtful, complete, and concise. We will evaluate your essays and short answers primarily on the strength of the ideas presented within them. Although we hope you will show us your writing at its best, content is more important to us than polish. If you are selected to attend TASS, your essays and short answers will be shared with your faculty and factotums.

Each essay should be no more than 9,000 characters in length (approximately 1,500 words or 3 single-spaced pages). If you are submitting your application online, please be aware that you will need to copy and paste your essays and short answers into text boxes. Please insert an extra blank line between paragraphs and be aware that any special characters or formatting will not be preserved. We recommend that you write and proofread your work on a word processor before you print or submit your application online.

## Essay Questions

1. Please explain why you want to attend and what you hope to gain from TASS. In addition, tell us what unique perspectives you will bring to TASS and how you will contribute to a diverse and inclusive community. Give specific examples.
2. At TASS, you will discuss texts and ideas in a college-style seminar. You should feel comfortable thinking deeply about an issue, communicating a well-reasoned stance, and genuinely engaging with others' positions. To that end, tell us about a time a discussion, piece of writing, movie, work of art, or other life experience changed your mind about an issue in African American or Black politics, culture, or social life. What did you believe at first, and how were you persuaded to adopt your new viewpoint?
3. TASS is comprised of small educational communities that rely greatly on the maturity of individual members. Tell us about a time you did something that upset or hurt someone in a community you were involved in. How did you respond to this situation? Reflect on your response, and evaluate it. What would you do the same, and what might you do differently? Why?

## Short Answer Questions

In addition, please provide, in no more than 1,500 characters (approximately 250 words) per list:

- a. A brief explanation of why you are interested in each seminar and an order of your preference for attending them. If there is a seminar that you would definitely not attend, explain why. (If you are selected for TASS, we will use your answer to help place you into an appropriate seminar.)
- b. A list of your favorite books, and other media (such as films, exhibits, newspapers, magazines, lectures, music, works of art, etc). For each item, please include a very brief description of its importance to you.
- c. A list of your most relevant activities, work, or volunteer experiences, scholarship programs, honors, and awards. For each, include a very brief description of its importance to you.

**Optional:** You may (but are not required to) submit up to 1,500 characters (approximately 250 words or half a page) of any other information you feel would help the committee understand your application: for example, any unusual patterns or anomalies in your academic record, such as gaps in education, or a poor semester performance.

## DIRECTIONS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION BY MAIL

If applying by mail, please follow these instructions carefully. We encourage you to apply online if possible.

1. Print your essays and short answers single-spaced in 12-point font on standard letter-size (8.5" x 11") paper, single-sided. Number the pages and put your name at the top of each page.
2. Assemble your application as follows:
  - If you received the application as a single sheet of paper, fold it so that your signature, name, and address are on top and place your essays and short answers (in that order) inside a large manila envelope.
  - If you printed your application, put the two pages labeled "Part 1" on top, starting with the page with your signature, name, and address, then place your essays and short answers behind them (in that order). You do not need to enclose the pages with our letter to you or the "Part 2" instructions.
3. Mail your application in an envelope large enough so that you do not have to fold your essays and short answers to Ellen Baer, Administrative Director, Telluride Association, 217 West Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. It must be postmarked by Tuesday, **January 10, 2017**.
4. **You are encouraged to keep a copy of both Part 1 and your essays and short answers to help you prepare for your interview, if selected.**

**To submit your application online, go to [tass.tellurideassociation.org](http://tass.tellurideassociation.org)**

If you apply online, your application is also due on **Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 11:59 p.m. EST**. Please do not also submit a paper application.

**Students who are selected for interviews will be notified in early March. These students will be asked to submit a transcript, a letter of recommendation, and a paper written for class. Further instructions will be given with the notification.**

Telluride Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical disability.

Applicants who plagiarize all or part of their application will have their application returned to them and will not be considered for admission into the program. Telluride Association and its officers may also, at its own discretion, contact the staff of these students' respective schools in order to notify them of any instance of plagiarism.

It is the policy of Telluride Association not to grant any special consideration, positive or negative, to students who apply to summer programs when those students have a parent or sibling who has participated in or been employed by a TA program. Immediate family members of current TASS faculty are ineligible to apply.

Telluride Association occasionally shares applicants' names and addresses with our partner institutions for the purpose of informing them of scholarship and other opportunities.



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