



## Instructions for Completing the National Contestant's Resume

**This is your opportunity to demonstrate to the judges why they should consider you for the job of Miss America. You may list as many or as few items under each category as you desire. Your only restriction is that it must follow the established format and it must fit on one page. This page, combined with the Platform Statement, will comprise your entire application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted.** Any item submitted that does not fit the established criteria will be returned for correction only once. Any item, which does not meet the criteria or is submitted after the deadline, will not be given to the judges. If your resume arrives on the day of the deadline, and does not meet the criteria, there will not be time to return it to you; therefore, it will not be given to the judges. If she chooses, a contestant may explain the lack of judging materials during her interview.

1. Go to the word processing program of your computer.
2. Start a "new" document.
3. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type, using the Times New Roman font style. Please refer to the attached sample to verify you are following the requested format.
4. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is LaCricia Deborah Smith and you want to be known as "Deborah Smith", please type "Deborah Smith").
5. Then, move to the next line and type "**Title:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your state title.
6. Then, move to the next line and type "**Hometown:**" in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar once. Then, type your hometown including the city and the state.
7. Move to the next line. Now set your justification to the right. Type "**Date of Birth:**" in bold. Hit the space bar two (2) times, and type the month, day, and year of your birth. (Ex. October 10, 1989)
8. Move Justification to the left. Double space down and type "**Education:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times and then type your most recent school first. If it is grad school, indicate it as such. List degree seeking (all on the same line as the name of the school), move to the line underneath that to list your undergraduate school and degree sought/achieved, and below that list your high school.
9. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Platform Issue:**" in bold. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the TITLE of your platform, MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT. DO NOT TYPE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE TITLE.
10. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type "**Scholastic/Career Ambition:**" in bold. Hit the Tab bar once, MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE OTHERS ABOVE IT. Then type the type of degree/education you would ultimately like to achieve and beneath that, list your career ambition.

11. Double space down. Hit the tab bar once. Type **"Talent:" in bold**. Hit the tab bar three times. Type the type of talent and specific selection. MAKE SURE IT LINES UP WITH THE INFORMATION ABOVE IT. (i.e. Pop Vocal - "Crying", Tap Dance - "Staying Alive", etc.)
12. Double space down. Type **"Scholastic Honors:" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
13. Double space down. Type **"Leadership Roles:" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
14. Double space down. Type **"Accomplishments:" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
15. Double space down. Type **"Interesting Facts:" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
16. Double space down. Type **"Employment:" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Each item should be separated by a semi-colon (;).
17. Double space down. Type **"How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
18. Double space down. Type **"Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Pageant?" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.
19. Double Space down. Type **"What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?" in bold**. Hit the space bar twice. Please answer the question in sentence form.

**The entire form MUST FIT ON ONE PAGE using the Times New Roman font style. You must leave a 1" margin on all four sides of the page. If spacing issues arise, simply follow the example provided.**

Use your best judgment on what is most important for the judges to know about you. Use the space wisely. Attached is an example of what the Resume should look like.

This form is given to the judges with your platform statement. You will notice there is a **REQUIRED SIGNATURE LINE** at the bottom of the Platform Statement. When these two pages are put together, they will create your entire application. Your signature covers the materials listed **ON BOTH PAGES**. Your signature verifies that everything on your forms is true and accurate. If it is proven that any information on these forms is not true, correct, and factual, you risk losing your local/state title.

**DUE IN NATIONAL OFFICE FOUR (4) WEEKS AFTER YOUR STATE PAGEANT**

**Name:** Jane Smith  
**Title:** Miss State  
**Hometown:** Anytown, America

**Date of Birth:** December 29, 1989

**Education:** University of State – sophomore – Bachelor of Science, Liberal Arts  
Frederick Douglass High School

**Platform Issue:** Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

**Scholastic/Career Ambition:** Obtain a Masters of Business Administration

**Talent:** Pop Vocal / “Fallen”

**Scholastic Honors:** Recipient of National Coca-Cola Scholarship; Recipient of the Metropolitan Urban League National Scholarship; Dean’s List; Member of the President’s Leadership Council at the UCF

**Leadership Roles:** Created and implemented a comprehensive Cultural Diversity Education Curriculum for grades K-12 in twelve Public Schools; University Student Body Senator; H.S. Sr. Class Pres.; College Sorority President.

**Accomplishments:** Recipient of the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to Community; Recipient of the National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Award; Performer, Grand Ole Opry in Nashville; Piano Performance scholarship at State University.

**Interesting Facts:** First person on either side of my family to attend college; Youngest of five children with a 13-year gap between me and my next oldest sister and an almost 20-year gap between the oldest and myself.

**Employment:** Internship with a Law Firm; Internship with local ABC television affiliate; Student Assistant at State University.

**How has the world you come from shaped your dreams and aspirations?**

I come from a loving, supportive family that has always taught me to work hard for the things I want to achieve. Growing up, my parents always encouraged us to get involved with our local community and help those who were less fortunate than us. They tried to instill good values in us and to always guide us on the right path. I think it is because of these lessons my parents taught me that I want to make a difference in today’s world. I aspire to be a woman of great influence, preferably working in the non-profit sector, where I can apply my talents for the greater good and help to change people’s lives. One person truly can make a difference, and I am on my way to proving that cliché. I also dream to one day have a loving family of my own, with beautiful children in whom I can instill the same core values that my parents gave to me.

**Of all the ways you could succeed in your life, why have you chosen to succeed in the Miss America Pageant?**

Along with providing the financial assistance for young women to fulfill our educational goals, the Miss America Organization gives us the opportunity to bring national attention to a cause dear to our hearts. If I were to become Miss America, I know that my voice would be heard as a spokesperson for my personal platform, as well as the national platform. Raising awareness of important social and political issues has always been important to me, and Miss America provides the perfect arena for that.

**What social issue, other than your platform, will have the greatest impact on your generation and why?**

Although I’m not sure I would consider it a social issue, I think technological advancements will have the greatest social impact on my generation. Technology is changing everything – the way we communicate, our lifestyles, access to information – it’s all right at your fingertips! That can be a double-edged sword. I believe we run the risk of losing both interpersonal and language skills due to the ease and speed of communicating electronically. I believe our educators should address this issue immediately, or it may, unfortunately, have the greatest impact on my generation and every generation to follow.



## Instructions for Typing the National Contestant's Platform Statement

**This is your opportunity to explain to the judges what your chosen platform is and why it is important for the Miss America Organization to embrace this platform. In addition, it should explain how your platform will further the Miss America Organization "brand" to the public.** This **ONE (1) page, single-spaced** document combined with the Contestant's Resume, will comprise your entire application for this job. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted. Any items submitted that do not fit the established criteria will be returned for correction only once. Any item that does not meet the criteria or submitted after the deadline will not be given to the judges. If your Platform Statement arrives on the day of the deadline and does not meet the criteria, there will not be time to return it to you; therefore, it will not be given to the judges. If she chooses, a contestant may explain the lack of judging materials during her interview.

1. Go to the word processing program of your computer.
2. Start a "new" document.
3. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type using the Times New Roman font style.
4. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:" in bold**. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name.
5. Then, move to the next line and type "**Title:" in bold**. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then, type your state title.
6. Double space down. Set your justification to "center". Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
7. Double space down. Write what you feel is critical for the judge's to know about your platform and why it is necessary for you to have the job of Miss America to promote this issue. What you write will be what the judges know about your platform, your role in successfully dealing with this issue, and the role the Miss America Organization may play in your plan.
8. This essay **may** include some of the following items (this is not to be meant as an exhaustive list):
  - A clear definition of the platform and the specific issues you wish to address
  - A plan on how you have or will create awareness of the platform
  - The way in which you have or will change attitudes regarding the issue
  - The way in which you have or will change behaviors related to this issue
  - The way in which your platform issue will move the Miss America Organization forward
  - Your media plans
  - Your marketing strategy
  - How you propose to fund your ideas/plans
  - Any significant accomplishments you have made in regard to your issue
9. At the bottom of the page, you **MUST** set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line, you must type Signature/Date and after printing **sign and date the document**.

Once you have printed the document, it is important that you SIGN and DATE the document as shown in the attached SAMPLE

**Name:** Jane Smith  
**Title:** Miss State

### **Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness**

It is imperative that this nation face and embrace its cultural diversity. While many people have talked about this issue, I believe that most of them have only paid lip service to the true necessity of what needs to be addressed related to this issue. There is a false truth in merely accepting and tolerating cultural diversity. I intend to prove that in order to accept and understand people of other cultures; one must be willing to step out of a personal cultural comfort zone and identify the origin of their prejudice. I will specifically focus on three areas: Children, Communities, and Businesses.

The title of Miss America, combined with the national media already looking at the surface of this issue, will allow me to create the national awareness that must exist. Currently, the term “Cultural Diversity” is well known in the halls of institutions of higher learning and, perhaps, even in the public school classroom because of the need for some to be politically correct. But, in order for us to make a true change in attitudes and behaviors of Americans, we must move beyond talk and into action and policy changes.

My plan is to motivate the media and to partner with the National Conference for Community and Justice. This organization has chapters in every major city in the nation and, in many cases, those chapters have community leaders involved who can, with encouragement and challenging, bring this issue out of hiding and into the public light in each of those communities.

Obviously, the media and the NCCJ already exist. However, what is lacking is a lightning rod to draw attention to this issue. This is where the Miss America Organization steps into the lead. What better role is there for Miss America than to be an agent of change in organizing our nation to accept our differences and to create an environment that values each person on individual characteristics rather than on stereotypes or assumptions?

For years, Miss America was seen as a young woman who cut ribbons and appeared in parades. It is time for “Miss America” to step out of the convertible and *lead the parade*. Our country’s ethnic make-up is changing rapidly and our citizen’s fear of terrorism can explode already existing, but deeply hidden prejudices. I want to be the leader that this nation needs.

This nation needs this issue addressed now and through the already existing NCCJ and its local and state organizations combined with the power of Miss America, we can make a concrete difference now, which will change the direction and the future of our nation.

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Signature/Date