

SEMIFINALIST REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTING SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

1. Open-Ended Response & Essay Questions

- a. In 35 words or less, describe yourself without restating your activities or accomplishments.
- b. Discuss a time when you received significant support from an individual, group, organization, or other source, how that experience impacted your life, and the lasting effect it had on your commitment to the source of that support. (200 words or less)

2. An updated resume and/or CV – although we asked you to upload a copy with your application, please send a printed copy as well and include any updates.

3. Verification of test scores that were submitted in your Point application

- a. **For Undergraduates:** Submission of test scores is optional. However, if you chose to submit your test scores in your application, we do require verification at this stage. Semifinalists will be required to mail the online score report, or submit the appropriate testing organization verification with the other required supplemental material. Copies of test scores printed from the official testing organization or a screenshot with your name visible may also be submitted.
- b. **For Graduate Students:** If standardized test scores are required for admission to the applicant's educational institution for which they are hoping to receive Point support, official verification of that testing is required. For instance, if you are selected as a Point Semifinalist applying to law school and the law school to which you are applying requires LSAT testing for acceptance, you are required to send to Point your LSAT scores only. Semifinalists will be required to mail the online score report, or submit the appropriate testing organization verification with the other required supplemental material. Copies of test scores printed from the official testing organization or a screenshot with your name visible may also be submitted.

4. Transcripts

- a. Please note that it can take several weeks to receive a transcript from an educational institution. Do not have transcripts sent directly to Point from an educational institution unless that is the only option. Opened transcripts are acceptable.
- b. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable at the semifinalist stage. However, please be advised that if you advance to the finalist stage, we will ultimately need official copies so we recommend sending official copies now.
- c. First-year college students need to submit a transcript from the most recent school they graduated from, as well as a transcript from their first semester in college. For example, if you are an undergraduate semifinalist at X University and are a first-year student in an undergraduate program, you are to submit both your fall term university transcript and your high school transcript.
- d. Community college students need to submit transcripts from all institutions from which they have received credits to initiate a transfer. If community college students have already transferred to a four-year university and have just completed their first semester they are to send transcripts from both their current university and the community college from which they transferred.
- e. Graduate Semifinalists: Please submit transcripts from ALL colleges/universities previously attended, including undergraduate.

5. **Two to three letters of recommendation:** Point asks for 2-3 letters of recommendation as part of the semifinalist round of the application process. Through these letters, we hope to learn more about you, your academic abilities, and your leadership experience. Please select a group of writers whose recommendations, when read together, will provide us with a comprehensive picture of you as a candidate. Please refer to the requirements below for further information.
- At least two (2) and no more than three (3) letters of recommendation are required for each semifinalist. At least one (1) letter must be from someone academically affiliated with the applicant (ie. teacher, professor, dean, advisor). The other letters may also be academic references, or from the supervisor(s) of the applicant's extracurricular/leadership activities.
 - For semifinalists who have been out of school for more than five years, a reference letter from a supervisor may suffice as one letter of recommendation, but at least one letter must be an academic reference.
 - All letters must include the recommender's email and phone number. Letters printed on formal letterhead are preferred. Each recommendation should reflect an awareness of Point and its mission.
 - If your recommender would prefer to keep the letter private, you may leave it in a sealed envelope or they may email the recommendation directly to applications@pointfoundation.org, but **only with prior approval from a staff member**.
6. **Financial aid award (if applicable)**
- Semifinalists who are currently studying in community college, undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate programs must submit the most recent copy of your school's financial aid award. If the semifinalist does not currently receive financial aid, but will in the following academic year, please include a brief statement of no more than 200 words which explains why you will be receiving financial aid in the coming academic year.
 - Current financial aid award letters are not yet available for high school seniors, thus they are not required.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS MUST BE REMOVED FROM ENVELOPES (UNLESS REQUESTED NOT TO) AND HAVE ALL STAPLES REMOVED. THE APPLICANT'S FULL NAME MUST BE CLEARLY VISIBLE ON EVERY PIECE OF PAPER SUBMITTED, INCLUDING THE ENVELOPE THAT CONTAINS ALL OF THE CONTENTS.

PLEASE PLACE ALL MATERIALS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: ESSAYS; RESUME/CV; TEST SCORES; TRANSCRIPTS; LETTERS; FINANCIAL AID INFO

Point will not return any supplemental materials, regardless of whether or not a semifinalist is selected as a finalist, and/or Point Scholar. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Semifinalists will be notified by mid-March if they have been selected to receive a phone interview.