

## **Guide to the Homeschool Counselor Letter of Recommendation**

Writing a homeschool letter of recommendation as a parent might feel overwhelming, because you've known the student their whole life. How do you encapsulate a few key qualities that colleges should know about? This might help: a guide to writing the homeschool counselor letter of recommendation required at University of Dallas, borrowing the "organized narrative" from NACAC's [Recs That Change Lives](#).

The length and format of the recommendation are open to each writer's preference, but we recommend roughly a page and no more than two in order to gain the most valuable insights into each student we review. Detailed examples are incredibly helpful - please tell us about a specific instance in which your student exhibited leadership, not just that they're a leader in youth group.

There are a few primary areas we would like you (the parent and primary educator) to cover in a recommendation.

### **Distinctive Qualities**

In the opening paragraph(s), tell a quick story or anecdote in a narrative format that begins to paint a picture of this student. Aim to keep this section to one or maybe two paragraphs.

### **School and Curriculum**

Tell the admission committee about your homeschool's educational philosophy. Try to explain why you feel this student's educational experience has prepared them for college, whether that might be through small classes and Socratic discussions or dual-credit courses with fantastic labs. Why have you chosen to homeschool? What has been your educational philosophy?

### **Academic History**

This section should be a paragraph or so about academics that is not a restatement of the transcript. The goal here is to give the admission committee context for the student's achievements. For example, "John has taken AP Biology, AP Physics and AP Chemistry" should be "John is one of only two students in our local homeschool group who has taken AP Biology, AP Physics and AP Chemistry." This small measurable statement changes the story for John; context is everything!

### **Activities and Interests**

This is a short paragraph designed to add some depth beyond the list of activities on the application. Use this section to help paint an overall picture of the student that leads to the final section.

### **Final Recommendation**

Given everything you told us so far, how would you describe your student? Leave the committee with your final thoughts - maybe 1-2 sentences.