

Texas ENA Achievement Award Nomination Tips for High Quality Submission

1. When possible, interview the person.
 - a. Asking for their input can make the application much richer, as no one knows the nominees accomplishments better.
 - b. Include outcomes, detailed accomplishments/contributions that relate directly to each of the criteria outlined for the award and nominee's impact. Superlatives are nice, but numbers and examples are much better.
 - c. Give specific examples – use descriptive language and then give a situation or example that shows why the individual or team should win the award.
 - d. Ask for their resume, then review it.

2. Quality writing matters.
 - a. The letters are graded, in part, on writing skills of the author against each criteria - so be very detailed and descriptive.
 - b. Use your best writing skills with complete sentences.
 - c. Tell a story: Storytelling engages the reviewer. Think of a story that highlights the impact your nominee has made. Use vivid language to create a picture for the reader. Include stories and use examples to illustrate key points and demonstrate the passion of the nominee.
 - d. Use words that are powerful! Make sure to accompany these words with specific examples of illustrative behaviors. Make every word and sentence count!
 - e. Avoid sweeping generalities.

3. Many people are caring, positive, and excellent but how do you know this? Provide as many examples as possible in each section.
 - a. Quotes from other nurses work well.
 - b. Give specific, detailed examples of what the nominee does that is considered to be above and beyond what is expected of the nurse as a part of their job description.

4. Answer the questions
 - a. If you don't answer each criteria, it will definitely not make the cut.
 - b. Provide examples - Key projects, results/outcomes, add in measurements..... before and after.

5. Remember:

- a. Writing a good award nomination application or letter takes time – for most nominations; at least one hour.
- b. Letters are blinded. (No identifying information)
 - i. Please submit a de-identifying letter, i.e. do not mention nominee's name, hospital, city, chapter etc.
- c. Pay attention to word count – if you go beyond the word count, additional words are cut off and will not appear in the final application.
 - i. 200 words per section limit.
- d. Submit the required requested documents before the deadline, include all nomination letters and application form, including CV (if required).
- e. How can you present your nomination letter in a way that sets it apart from others? You know they are special, but why?