**Self Letter of Reference**

**The students who are nominated for the Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship are students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and creativity, who are accepted as leaders within their school, and who have the potential to contribute to the global community in the future. They can be distinguished from other students who may have equally high academic results by virtue of their breadth of interest, intellectual energy, and impact on the life of their school and community. Write a letter of reference for yourself in the third person describing how the applicant meets these criteria. The letter should refer to the specific achievements and experiences. It may also comment on any weaknesses. (300-word maximum)**

**STRUCTURE**

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Kireyna for the Lester B. Pearson Scholarship at the University of Toronto.

At school, Kireyna consistently demonstrates critical thinking and an open mind. Beyond the classroom, she hones her analytical writing by writing economic research papers. Even though econometrics was barely introduced in class, she led her peers to develop tax buoyancy models by observing journals, placing them in top 10 for the ST Yau Award. She led the same team to win a national scientific paper competition on resource efficiency. Individually, her writing for the John Locke Institute essay competition got a high commendation from Oxford and Ivy League professors.

Also intrigued by STEM, Kirey took free online university-level courses on statistics and published a science journal in the IJSR on titratable acidity.

She also demonstrates leadership skills in various environmental NGOs at school and the local regency as head of fundraising and public relations. Kirey even founded her own NGO that aids restoration of economic value from waste through trash banks, in addition to proposing programs to the mayor for stricter public policy. Her charity organization to materially aid people of all kinds: trash-pickers, street children, and others in need during the Covid-19 pandemic was notably impactful.

She is very active in her religious organization, participating in interreligious dialogues and editing for a publication of a religious text by the Indonesian ministry of religious affairs.

Her thoughts were once bounded by tongue, but she built up the courage to improve her communication skills. She took the role as head journalist for the school newspaper, participated in debate, and won in the National English Olympics. Kirey’s motivation to contribute to society lead me to believe that there will be no limit to her growth in university and beyond.

Words: 297

Hey! So love to see all these experiences you have, it’s definitely impressive. That being said, the way you listed all of these feels not like an essay but more like bullet points joined together.

When I read through the essay, I don’t have a timeline, a progression of specific subjects, and I can’t focus on the skill set you’re trying to imply. It’s amazing to have a lot of activities, but simply mentioning all of them at once makes your passion or interest confusing. There’s a lot of awards yes, but I don’t see your aspirations or thoughts. Your “intellectual energy” and “impact” are great, but I don’t see your “breadth of interest.” Why are you intrigued with STEM? Why choose economics? Why suddenly improve your communication skills?

Let’s put it this way: If I read your resume, will I also see all of this? If yes, then change it. Does this essay have any content the resume doesn’t? If no, then change it.