

Instructions for Typing the MAOT Platform Issue Statement

Please remember. 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 items that do not meet the criteria or are submitted after the deadline will not be given to the judges. If your National Platform Statement arrives on the day of the deadline, but does not meet the criteria, there will not be time to return it to you; **therefore, it will not be given to the judges.** The contestant may explain the lack of judging materials during her interview, if she so chooses.

Contestants - Talk about your personal platform issue. In addition, explain how you will further the Miss America Outstanding Teen program "brand" to the public.

(See sample essay.)

Name: Jane Doe

Title: Miss State's Outstanding Teen Title

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's Outstanding Teen, 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 learner 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.

Miss America's Outstanding Teen should not be seen just as a young woman who cuts ribbons and appears in parades. This organization stands for so much more. The opportunity to win scholarship money for being a good student and citizen; for the opportunity to express my point of view; for the opportunity to experience performing before a large crowd; and for the opportunity to publically stand up for a community issue.

As this organization grows, I will always be its' biggest cheerleader. This program has given me the confidence to do things I would have never dreamed of doing. I want to spread the word all over the country about this amazing opportunity for teen girls.

SAMPLE