Miss Alabama's Outstanding TEEN

Miss "Local's or State's" Outstanding Teen Organization - Instructions for Preparing Platform Statement

Please remember, this **ONE (1) page, single-spaced** document, combined with your Judges Resume and your Pageant Contestant Contract will comprise your entire application for the responsibility of becoming Miss Local's or State's Outstanding Teen. The judges will receive exactly what is submitted. Any items that do not meet the criteria or are submitted after the deadline will not be given to the judges. If your 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**.

Contestants: Discuss your *personal* platform issue. In addition, explain how you will further the Miss "Local's or State's" Outstanding Teen Program and the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program "brand" to the public.

(See sample Platform Statement.)

1. Set margins for 1" on all four sides. The font style may not be any smaller than "10" and no larger than "12" point type using the Times New Roman font style.

2. With the justification set for left, type "**Name:**" in **bold.** Following the colon (:), remove bold and hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name as you wish the judges to know it. (If your name is Mary Deborah Smith and you want to be known as "Deborah Smith", please type "Deborah Smith").

3. Double space down. Set your justification to "center". Then type in **Bold and underline** the title of your Platform.

4. Double space down. With justification set for left and unbold, write what you feel is critical for the judge's to know about your platform and why it is necessary for you to have the title of Miss "Local's or State's" Outstanding Teen to promote this issue. What you write will be what the judges know about your platform, your role in successfully dealing with this issue, and the role the Miss "Local's or State's" Outstanding Teen and the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Organizations may play in your plan.

5. Remember to include in the Platform Statement what **you** can do to get the message out and get more of your friends and other teens interested in the Miss "Local's or State's" Outstanding Teen Program and the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program.

6. **Remember to single space the text that you are typing.**

7. This essay may include some of the following items (this is not to be meant as an exhaustive list):

   - A clear definition of your platform and the specific issues you wish to address
   - A plan on how you have or will create awareness of the platform
   - The way in which you have or will change attitudes regarding the issue
   - The way in which you have or will change behaviors related to this issue
   - The way in which your platform issue will move the Miss "Local's or State's" Outstanding Teen Program and the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Program forward
   - Your media plans
   - Your marketing strategy
   - How you propose to fund your ideas/plans
   - Any significant accomplishments you have made in regard to your issue.

8. At the bottom of the page, you MUST set the justification to the right. Type a line of 26 spaces. Below that line, you must type Signature/Date. Once you have printed the document, you must sign and date this document.

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(Sample: Miss Local's or State's Outstanding Teen Platform Statement)

Name: Deborah Smith

Celebrating Inclusivity

It is imperative that our 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 including all the family members at the table. 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, we must be willing to step out of our own personal cultural comfort zones and identify the origin of their prejudice. I will specifically focus on three areas: Children, Communities, and Businesses.

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 educators and learners 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 change in public policy.

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.

Obviously the media and the NCCJ already exist. However, what is lacking is a lightning rod to draw attention to this issue. This is where I could step into the lead as Miss River Valley's Outstanding Teen, this summer as Miss AnyState's Outstanding Teen, and in August as Miss America's Outstanding Teen. What better role is there for a national titleholder than to be an agent of change in organizing our nation to accept our differences and to create an environment that values each person on individual characteristics rather than on stereotypes or assumptions?

Miss River Valley's Outstanding Teen, Miss AnyState's Outstanding Teen, and Miss America's Outstanding Teen should not be seen just as yet another pretty face. Yes, she should be attractive, and yes, she should attract the leaders of the future to pay attention to her. Our country's ethnic make-up is changing rapidly and our citizen's fear of terrorism can explode already existing, but deeply hidden prejudices. I want to be the leader that our country needs to continue tackling this issue.

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Signature/Date

SAMPLE