

# Steps/tips for Writing Land Acknowledgment Statements

## Step 1: What's the purpose?

Start with self-reflection & consider the purpose:

- Why am I doing this?
- What is my end goal?
- When will I have the largest impact?
- Who is the intended audience?

When writing an acknowledgment statement, make sure it is genuine, honest, and most of all, EMPOWERING.

## Step 2: Ground Your Mindset in Honest, Positivity, & Respect

How do you make sure that your land acknowledgment statement empowers?

**Honesty** in a land acknowledgment statement means talking with & writing the truth.

**Positivity** means looking forward and focusing on how to empower Indigenous peoples today.

Write a land acknowledgment statement that **respects** others and their beliefs.

## Step 3: Do Your Research

Establish how far in the past you would like to acknowledge.

Who has current/active rights to your land?

Correct pronunciation for the names of the Tribes, places, & individuals that you're including.

If you're presenting on behalf of your work in a certain field, highlight Indigenous people who currently work in that field.

## Step 4: Focus on the Past, Present, & Future

Start with the **past** & acknowledge those who have come before & the hardship they may have faced.

Then, write about the **present** who still have a claim to their land.

Lastly, include an action that you can do in the **future** to continue to empower Indigenous peoples.

## Step 5: Check Your Statement

- ☐ Have I put at least an hour of research into my land acknowledgment?
- ☐ Do I know enough about the Indigenous people I am speaking about?
- ☐ Did I make sure I am not missing any tribes?
- ☐ Am I honest and open about the history of the Indigenous peoples I am acknowledging?
- ☐ Am I acknowledging their pain?
- ☐ Am I also acknowledging a positive future?
- ☐ Did I acknowledge the past?
- ☐ The present?
- ☐ The future?
- ☐ Did I identify any treaties that were signed in the past and/or are currently in effect?
- ☐ Did I include an action statement that demonstrates the future actions I will do to commit to empowering indigenous peoples?

# Resources

## More Examples of Land Acknowledgment Statements

### Duwamish Tribe

- Made by a local organization

### Northwestern University Land Acknowledgment, Chicago, IL

### Resource Generation

- Land reparations & Indigenous solidarity toolkit

## Guides and Resources Made by Native Nations

### Children of the Setting Sun Productions

- A native-run organization out of Bellingham, WA

### Native Governance Center Resources

- Creates accessible, introductory-level resources on a variety of topics related to sovereignty, governance, and nation rebuilding

### Native American and Indigenous Peoples FAQs

### Native Land Resource Page

## Videos

### #HonorNativeLandVideo

## Going Beyond Land Acknowledgment Statements

### Territorial Acknowledgements

- Going beyond the script [Video]

### Creating an Action Plan