

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