

2026 Application Part II

To be considered for the 2026 Expanding Horizons Institute, please email this completed application, including all required submissions, to sean-michael@teachdemocracy.org by **February 28, 2026**.

Name: _____ School: _____

Email: _____ Grade: _____

1. **Attendance** - Can you attend all mandatory seminars and internship dates? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. **Work Experience** - List any paying jobs you have had, if any. Babysitting or tutoring your siblings or relatives counts. Work experience is not required to be accepted into the program.

Employer (Organization/Company)	Your Position/Title	Dates you worked
Duties/Responsibilities:		
Duties/Responsibilities:		

3. **Skills/Abilities** - List some of your skills and abilities (include languages, software programs, typing skills, coding, etc.):

4. **Activities** - List any extracurricular activities you have been involved in. Include your involvement with sports, clubs, and any leadership positions you have held. Non-school activities count, too.

Name of Activity	Years of Participation	Awards and Recognition

5. **Volunteer Experience** - List any volunteer work you have participated in.

Organization	Your Position/Title	Dates of Volunteer Work
Duties/Responsibilities:		
Duties/Responsibilities:		

6. **Interests** - List some of your interests (i.e., sports, coding, photography, poetry, arts, etc.):

7. **Letters of Recommendation** - Two letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be from a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other school administrator (must be on official school letterhead). Recommendations from friends or family members will not be accepted. The letters should describe why you are qualified to participate in the Expanding Horizons Institute. Recommenders can email the letter **as an attachment** to sean-michael@teachdemocracy.org.
8. **Getting to Know You**—Respond to ONE of the following questions. Your response must be typed and at least one page long. Enclose your response with the application.
- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
 - The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
 - Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
 - Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
 - Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
9. **Unofficial Transcripts**—Submit a copy of your unofficial transcript with the application. You can request it from your school counselor, but it may take a few days to receive it.
10. **Student Signature** – Read the statement below and sign.

I certify that all the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature

Printed Name

Date

Application II Checklist

To be considered for the 2026 EHI, complete and submit this application and all required submissions via email to sean-michael@teachdemocracy.org by **February 28, 2026**.

- ☐ Two letters of recommendation (see item #7 above).
- ☐ Getting to Know You (see item #8 above).
- ☐ Unofficial transcript (see item #9 above).
- ☐ **Parent/Legal Guardian Agreement Form** - must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

The EHI staff is here to guide you through the process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our dedicated staff.

Daisy Alonso at daisy@teachdemocracy.org or (213) 316-2127

Sean-Michael Ramirez at sean-michael@teachdemocracy.org or (213) 316-2109

Lourdes Morales at lourdes@teachdemocracy.org or (213) 316-2125