

# Teach For America Ignite Fellowship Application Support Workbook

**Spring 2026 Cohort**  
**Fellowship Dates: January 20 – May 1, 2026**

**Learn more at:** [www.teachforamerica.org/ignite-fellowship](http://www.teachforamerica.org/ignite-fellowship)

**Apply at:** <https://tfaignite.smapply.io/saml2/login/>

*Note: This is a workbook intended to strengthen your Teach For America Ignite application. This IS NOT the official TFA Ignite Fellowship application. You can submit your official application online at <https://tfaignite.smapply.io/saml2/login/>. This workbook contains reflection questions that will help you build context into who Teach For America is, the purpose of the Ignite Fellowship, and what our team looks for in an applicant. As you work through this workbook, you will also be prompted to answer questions that will be included in the official application. Use this space to create your rough drafts to have them ready to go when you submit your official application at <https://tfaignite.smapply.io/saml2/login/>.*



**Teach For  
America**  
**Ignite**

## **About Teach For America Ignite**

Teach For America Ignite is a national tutoring corps designed to accelerate learning and foster belonging with students. Ignite builds on Teach For America's over 30 years of experience recruiting and developing leaders to partner with schools across the country to help students overcome the systemic barriers to an excellent education. Leveraging research-based best practices for high-impact tutoring, the Ignite Fellowship brings exceptional leaders into classrooms virtually to immediately add value with students and schools through customized learning.

## **Details about TFA Ignite:**

### **As an Ignite fellow, you will:**

- Lead small group, virtual learning experiences with students
- Be supported by a school-based, veteran educator
- Work approximately 3 – 5 hours per week during regular K-12 school hours
- Be able to explore available schedules and sign up for one that works for you
  - *Times are based on partner school schedules and sign-ups are first come first served. Not all accepted fellows will be able to find a time that works with their schedule the first semester, but may defer to join in a future semester.*
  - *We partner with schools across the country in 5 time zones. You will sign up for a schedule that will remain consistent for the semester. [View a sample weekly schedule.](#)*
- Earn a financial award at the end of each semester, ranging from \$800 – \$1,200 in the fall and \$1,000 – \$1,400 in the spring
- Check out our Ignite [Frequently Asked Questions](#) here.

### **These are the factors that most often attract people to TFA Ignite:**

- *Opportunity to Work with Kids:* This was by far the most frequently mentioned aspect that attracted fellows to Ignite. Many see Ignite as a valuable opportunity to engage with and mentor young students.
- *Paid and Virtual:* Applicants value the financial award as well as the convenience and accessibility provided by a virtual teaching environment.
- *Educational Engagement and Mentorship:* Fellows' desire to engage in educational activities and mentorship. Fellows are motivated to contribute positively to the educational experiences of children, particularly in a flexible, online setting that fits with their schedules and commitments.
- *Professional Development:* Fellows enjoy gaining work experience, developing teaching skills, and connecting with Teach For America staff and other educators

### **Eligibility Requirements to Join TFA Ignite**

- Be available to work for ~5 hours each week of the Fellowship
  - Weeks 1 & 2: ~5 hours of learning and onboarding each week
  - Weeks 3–4: ~2–3 hours working directly with students and ~2 hours preparing for sessions and learning each week
  - You will sign up for a consistent schedule to lead tutoring for the semester
  - Sessions are conducted virtually only
- Be at least one or more of the following:
  - A current undergraduate or graduate student during the fall 2025 semester (both full- time or part-time students are eligible)
  - Accepted to the TFA corps
  - A renewing Ignite fellow
  - An Ignite deferral from 2024–25
  - TFA corps alum
- Have an undergraduate GPA of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (First year college students must have a high school GPA of 3.0+)
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be authorized to work in the U.S. – either U.S. citizens, national or legal permanent residents, Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals/DACA recipients, or hold a valid EAD ([See our eligible EAD categories here](#)). Individuals in the U.S. on a student visa, exchange visa, work visa, or tourist visa are not eligible.
- Complete an online background check as a part of onboarding if accepted

*Note: \*When completing your eligibility profile on the Ignite application page, please carefully and accurately select your responses. If you see the notice "no programs available" it means you are ineligible based on what your responses to the eligibility questions. If you believe you are receiving this message in error, please email [ignite@teachforamerica.org](mailto:ignite@teachforamerica.org) for technical support.*

## **The Ideal Candidate for TFA Ignite**

The qualities the Ignite Team looks for are:

- Desire to work alongside K-12 students to positively impact their learning, growth and sense of belonging
- Deep belief in kids and families facing systemic barriers
- Bold vision setting and the ability to create meaningful change
- Effective collaboration with people from different backgrounds and perspectives
- Desire to learn from people, experiences, and self-reflection
- Commitment to complete the entire semester of the Ignite Fellowship

## **Considerations**

As you move through the rest of this application workbook, consider how you might highlight the aspects above in your own application as you share more about yourself with the Ignite Team.

### TFA Ignite Application

The TFA Ignite application consists of **4 short answer questions** and **2 video questions** that you will pre-record and upload.

The following activities in this workbook include activities to help you build context and brainstorm, as well as write rough drafts of your answers to the official application questions. Please remember, you will need to go into the actual Ignite application portal to officially submit your responses after you've worked through this workbook.

### <Short Answer Question Section>

#### **Building Context: Teach For America's Mission**

To learn a bit more about Teach For America's mission, take a couple of minutes to read our website page on "[Our Work](#)".

*Personal Reflection Question: What stands out to you about Teach For America's mission? How do you relate to TFA's mission? Why do you care about educational equity and TFA's mission? What experiences have led you to this?*

Your Answer Here

**Building Context: Fostering Belonging in Students**

Watch educator Rita Pierson's TED Talk, "[Every kid needs a champion](#)."

*Personal Reflection Question: What stands out to you about Rita's beliefs as a teacher?*

*What would you want to be true of your leadership as an Ignite Fellow?*

Your Answer Here

Next, explore [Teach For America's Core Values](#).

*Personal Reflection Question: What stands out to you about TFA's core values? How do you personally relate to these values?*

Your Answer Here

Now, considering your reflections above, move on to the next section where you will write a rough draft of your official Ignite Fellowship application questions.

Ignite Application Question Rough Draft Writing  
Short Answer Question 1

Consider [Teach For America's mission](#) and your own motivations as you answer the following questions:.

- 1) There are many ways to work with youth.
  - Why are you interested in working with students as a Teach For America Ignite fellow?
  - To what extent do you think it is possible for all students to be successful?

Your Answer Here

**Ignite Application Question Rough Draft Writing**

**Short Answer Question 2**

**2) How will your experiences inform the way you lead as a tutor working to expand educational opportunities and excellence for all students?" (*i.e. your own personal experience; experience you have working with youth; and/or living in or working in a low-income community*) (100–300 words)**

Your Answer Here



**Brainstorming: Consider Your Own Leadership**

*Personal Reflection: Take a moment to jot down all of the groups you've worked with over the last three years. Then, consider how you were able to work with others and guide them or yourself to a meaningful outcome.*

Your Answer Here

For our next section, we like to remind applicants of the S.T.A.R. Method when responding to describe a specific situation, task, action, and result.

- S – Situation: Describe the situation that you were in or what you needed to accomplish. Be specific and detailed. Give your audience background and provide context.
- T – Task: Describe the challenges and expectations. What needed to be done and what goal were you working toward? Why?
- A – Action: What actions did you take to address the situation? Why? (Keep the focus on you.)
- R – Results: Explain the result, accomplishment, recognition, savings, etc. (Be as quantitative as you can.) What was the outcome? How did the event end? What did you accomplish? What did you learn?

## Ignite Application Question Rough Draft Writing

### Short Answer Question 3

*The Teach For America network imagines bold possibilities and achieves extraordinary results with students. In the next question, we are hoping to learn more about how you set goals for yourself or on a team, work towards those goals, and achieve them. In addition, learning and improving your skills are an important part of the fellowship. So we would like to hear how you approach learning.*

3) Think about a time you led a group to meet or achieve a meaningful goal in the last 3 years.

- What was the meaningful goal and was it met?
- What happened as a result?
- How did your actions in the group specifically contribute to the group's success?

[100 - 300 words]

Your Answer Here

**Brainstorming: Your Approach to Challenges and Organization**

*Personal Reflection: Think about a time you were busy in this last quarter/semester, how did you stay on top of everything? What systems did you use to stay organized? What were you thinking when you came up against challenges?*

Your Answer Here

Now, considering your reflections above, move on to the next section where you will write a rough draft of your official Ignite Fellowship application question.

**Ignite Application Question Rough Draft Writing****Short Answer Question 4**

***First, take a few minutes to review the Ignite Expectations <[Click on this link](#)>.***

*[This document includes expectations for fellows as well as information about what supports will be available for them]*

***4) Next, imagine you are in the middle of a busy semester tutoring for Ignite with a full class load. Unexpectedly, you get an email from a professor saying your course schedule will be changed for the next month. You also receive feedback that you are falling behind on a project you are leading.***

***Given fellowship expectations aligned with student success and how critical your own school success is:***

- What are you thinking, and what would you do in the short and long-term?***
- As a fellow, how will you ensure you're able to meet fellowship and school expectations?***

***[100 - 300 words]***

Your Answer Here

## <Video Question Section>

### **Building Context: Building Relationships with Students**

Check out one or more of the following resources featuring Teach For America corps members, alumni, and students.

- ["The Power of Relationship Building"](#) article
- ["Your Most Powerful Role is in the Classroom"](#) video
- ["The Student"](#) video

*Personal Reflection Question: How did these educators build relationships with their students and foster a sense of belonging? Why is this important?*

Your Answer Here

### **Ignite Application Question Rough Draft Writing**

#### **Video Question 1**

When you answer this question on your application you'll record and upload your video responding to the following scenario:

***After the first two weeks of working with three students, you notice that one of the students, John, is consistently not participating and frequently has his camera turned off. His teacher has also shared with you that he is not completing his work.***

***- What are you thinking and what would you do?***

***- What were your priorities in choosing this specific approach?***

*[Video response: 1 – 3 minutes]*

Your Answer Here

**Brainstorming: Your Approach to Challenges**

*Personal Reflection Question: Think about a time where you had to collaborate with others and experienced a gap in communication, time management, etc. What steps did you take to effectively work with others and overcome the challenge (list your actions 1, 2, 3, etc.)? What learnings did you gain from the experience?*

Your Answer Here

**Ignite Application Question Rough Draft Writing****Video Question 2**

When you answer this question on your application you'll record and upload your video responding to the following scenario:

***You are 4 weeks into the Fellowship and have some questions about the curriculum. You email and text your trainer to ask for help. It has been 2 days, you haven't heard back from them, and you are teaching this lesson first thing in the morning.***

- What are you thinking and what would you do?***
- What, if anything, would you do differently in the future?***

*[Video response: 1 – 3 minutes]*

*\*Keep in mind for this question: The Ignite Fellow expectations document that also lays out what support systems are available. <[Revisit them at this link](#)>.*

Your Answer Here

### **Ignite Commitment Questionnaire Section**

In the application portal, you'll be asked a series of questions regarding your understanding of the commitment to the fellowship if selected. Here is a preview of what that will look like:

***If accepted as a fellow, you will be given the opportunity to select a consistent tutoring schedule of days and times that work for you during the Sign-Up Window in January.***

At this time, please just confirm you are available to meet the basic program requirements outlined below:

- 1) *I am available to work virtually for ~5 hours each week of Ignite.*
  - a) *Onboarding Weeks: ~5 hours of learning and onboarding each week*
  - b) *Fellowship Weeks: ~ 3 hours working directly with students and ~2 hours preparing for sessions and learning each week.*

*<Affirm Yes>*
  
- 2) *I have reviewed the program expectations [<LINK>](#) and understand that consistent attendance and proactive communication are key to successful participation in Ignite.*
  - a) *Once I sign up for and commit to a placement that fits my schedule, I will be willing and able to attend all tutoring sessions*
  - b) *I commit to being responsive and communicating proactively throughout the Fellowship.*

*<Affirm Yes>*
  
- 3) *Under what circumstances, if any, would you resign from the Ignite Fellowship?*

*<Short Answer>*

## **Final Tips for Submitting Your Ignite Fellowship Application**

### **Be Authentic**

The Ignite Team is interested in learning more about you as an individual. Feel empowered to share your authentic experiences and bring the team into your perspective and passions.

### **Review Your Application Before Submitting**

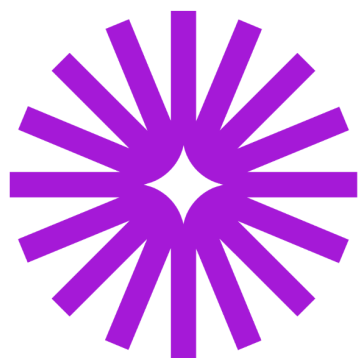
Ensure that your video submission is correct by double checking that you've submitted the correct file/link in the application portal. Consider typing out your short responses elsewhere to spell-check, etc. or have a peer review before submitting them. Remember this workbook is a practice space, and you must submit your application at <https://tfaignite.smapply.io/saml2/login/>.

### **Questions or Tech Support?**

Reach out to the Ignite Team with any technical issues with your application at [ignite@teachforamerica.org](mailto:ignite@teachforamerica.org).

### **Stay Connected!**

Be sure to stay connected with Teach For America through [our online platform](#). This is an online platform for learning featuring a library of streamable events, podcasts, blogs, and articles, and more. Among this collection are inspiring moments with thought-leaders across career fields and backgrounds. Take the time today to learn something new and find new ways to grow. Get on our email list and get notified about upcoming events and other opportunities!



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