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.

**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**
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.
□ 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