5 Tips to Become a Strong Applicant

1. **Do research**
   a. It's critical for you to understand [how to choose Peace Corps positions](#). Take some time to learn about:
      i. Our six work sectors: https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/what-volunteers-do/
      ii. Where volunteers serve: https://www.peacecorps.gov/countries/
      iii. FAQ's: https://www.peacecorps.gov/stories/category/ask-peace-corps/
      iv. Volunteer experiences: https://www.peacecorps.gov/unexpected/real-perspectives/

2. **Browse through the volunteer projects**
   a. Go to our [volunteer openings portal](#) and search for Peace Corps projects that align with your skills and aspirations. Build your qualifications around the actual "required" and "desired" skills that those projects require — both the coursework and the hands-on experience. Be aware that projects you find in this portal are only the ones accepting applications in this current quarter.

3. **Upgrade your hands-on experience in your sector of interest**
   a. A positive accumulation of relevant work experience is a prime determining factor Peace Corps Placement Officers use to filter for the strongest applicants. So, build it!
      i. For example, if you want to be an Education Volunteer, you should get teaching experience!
      ii. If you want to be a Youth in Development Volunteer, work with children! And so on.

4. **Apply early and consider the Featured Positions on the website**
   a. Placements are posted quarterly about 8-12 months prior to departure, with application deadlines 6 months out. You are more likely to be noticed if you beat the rush and apply well before the deadline. You should also consider any "Featured Positions" that align with your skill set, as these positions receive comparatively fewer applications.

5. **Competitive applicants have:**
   a. Education and/or experience that is relevant to the sector they're most interested in
   b. A history of community service, volunteerism, and leadership experience
   c. [A targeted resume](#)
   d. Applied well before the "Apply By" deadline