Letters of Recommendation

Applicants:

- Carefully select references and meet individually with each reference to discuss the application process, timetable and your reference letter.
- Share your vitae and AMCAS personal statement to provide background information and context that should be useful in writing the letter
- http://www.ivyleagueadmission.com/medreftips.html

Considerations for reference letter writers:

- Under what circumstances and how long have you had contact with the applicant?
- Recognition of strengths & weaknesses
- Motivation for medicine and experience
- Academic ability
- Assessment of oral and written communication skills
- Personal attributes
    - Interpersonal skills
    - Evidence of psychological maturity and stability
    - Imagination, initiative, creativity, perseverance, and enthusiasm
    - Problem-solving and analytical skills
    - Honesty, integrity
    - Empathy
    - Character
    - Resilience
    - Reliability and responsibility
    - Motivation
    - Leadership
    - Special attributes
- Why should or should not the applicant become a physician?
- How does the applicant get along with others?
- Discuss pertinent employment, extra-curricular, or vocational activities such as community service or outside interests.
- It is also helpful to describe how you would compare the applicant with other candidates for whom you have written letters.

Letters must be dated, signed, and printed on University, company or personal letterhead.

To submit PDF letters of reference to AMCAS (American Medical College Application Service), use the AMCAS Letter Writer Application at https://services.aamc.org/letterwriter. Create an account (specify user name and password), enter the AAMC student ID and Letter ID numbers (printed on the form that you will receive from the applicant), and then upload your letter.

This information is a compilation of materials gathered from the following sources:

http://depts.washington.edu/mdadmit/secondary/suggest.htm - University of Washington SOM – Guidelines for Writing Letters of Recommendation
http://medicine.utah.edu/admissions/apply/secondary.htm - University of Utah SOM - Secondary Materials – Letters of Recommendation
http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/dept/asa/prospective_applicants/adm_letters.htm - University of Nevada SOM – Guidelines for Letters of Recommendation
http://admissions.med.miami.edu/md-programs/general-md/application-process - University of Miami Miller SOM – The M.D. Application Process – Letters of Recommendation