

HOW TO WRITE A PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR LAW SCHOOL

Tell a story where you are the main character

Writing tips

- ▶ In order to tell a compelling and moving story, you must understand yourself. Reflect upon the following to gain inspiration:
 - ▶ What's your proudest personal achievement that really highlights who you are as an individual?
 - ▶ How do your passions contribute to your personal goals and growth?
 - ▶ What makes you unique? What sets you apart from other applicants?
 - ▶ Think about your ancestors, your geographic location, etc.
 - ▶ How did you become interested in law?
 - ▶ Are there any major challenges that you have overcome?
- ▶ Select one or two topics that you believe are the strongest.
- ▶ Describing the event should be roughly 1/3 of the essay. The rest should be reflection.
- ▶ Be sure to share aspects of your life that are not apparent on other parts of the application.

Refer to UChicago's webpage of successful personal statements for inspiration:
<https://www.law.uchicago.edu/news/their-own-words-admissions-essays-worked>

- ▶ Make it personal and let your writing show your personality.
- ▶ Avoid restating your resume and/or transcript.
- ▶ Write in a vivid, descriptive prose.
- ▶ Avoid excessive research jargon and legal terminology.
- ▶ Avoid writing too much about law and attorneys.
- ▶ Use active voice.
- ▶ If you choose to write a personal statement and a diversity statement, you must choose two different topics.

Information for this handout came from the following:
Cawley Career Education Center. "Law School Personal Statement Dos and Don'ts."
Northwestern University. "Writing the Law School Personal Statement."
The University of Chicago Law School. "FAQs: Personal Statement."
University of Washington. "Writing Personal Statements for Law School."