HOW TO WRITE A PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR LAW SCHOOL

Tell a story where you are the main character

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.

Writing tips

- 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.

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

Information for this handout came from the following:
- Northwestern University. “Writing the Law School Personal Statement.”
- The University of Chicago Law School. “FAQs: Personal Statement.”