

# Law School Personal Statement



The law school personal statement serves as a tool that “gives a voice” to a candidate’s application. Law schools typically do not conduct interviews and so the statement serves as one’s introduction, and highlights what distinguishes an individual from the applicant pool.

In addition, the statement should serve to demonstrate to an admissions committee that you are able to write clearly, concisely, and professionally. Strong writing skills will be needed in law school and throughout a career as a practicing lawyer.

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Law School Admission Council, **there is no prescribed “right” topic to write about.** Think about who you are and try to address the question:

- What would I want an admissions committee to remember about me after they’ve finished reading my statement?



## Need help getting started?

### Consider these questions to help you brainstorm ideas:

- Why did you want to go to law school?
- Did you experience any kind of significant life event that influenced your decision to pursue law?
- Is there a personal challenge that you overcame? What did you learn from it?
- How did that experience help you grow?
- Are there any personal achievements, hobbies, or interests that have impacted you?
- What is your career goal? Do you have any career interests that you would like to pursue after completing law school?
- Why are you attracted to a particular law school? What are a few unique factors about a school that – in your opinion – set it apart from the other programs (e.g. legal clinic opportunities, a renowned faculty, special resources, etc.)?

START  
HERE



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## Writing Tips

Keep these in mind as you write your law school personal statement.

- Be mindful of standard essay rules. What is your thesis or the main aspect that you wish to convey?
- Is your statement organized? Make sure to have an Introduction, supporting example(s), and a conclusion
- Be aware of your essay's flow and avoid disjointed paragraphs
- Demonstrate and elaborate as opposed to merely stating something and then immediately moving onto the next topic
- Consider opening your statement with a story to help hook the reader. Admissions personnel will review numerous applications so your statement will, ideally be interesting to read
- Tailor your statement to each school. Include at least a brief paragraph that addresses why you are applying to a specific program
- Answer all of the questions on the prompt
- Format: double-space, use a standard font such as Times New Roman, and adhere to the word and/or page limits set by each school

## Final Tips

Take some of the stress out of writing your personal statement.

- Start drafting your essay well in advance of application deadlines. Give yourself plenty of time to make revisions
- The personal statement is ultimately a professional sample of writing so carefully consider what kinds of personal experiences you wish to disclose
- Discussing any kind of GPA-related concern or explaining why you took the LSAT more than once would be appropriate to address within an addendum, as opposed to divulging in the personal statement
- Have your statement proofread by at least three individuals that can offer constructive feedback. Possible people to approach include your professors, TAs, friends and relatives
- If you would like additional assistance, consider scheduling a writing consultation appointment at UCI's Center for Excellence in Writing and Communication

