

Personal Statement Workshop

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The Basics

- Two pages double spaced.
- Follow instructions
- Put your name and LSAC number in the top righthand corner of the first page.
- No gimmicks pictures or cover pages
- Remember your audience is likely
 - Over the age of 35
 - Not your parent friend
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Personal Statement

A **well** **statement** of no more than **typed** pages double spaced, is **required**. The **statement** should inform the Admissions Committee of any factors the applicant **deems** **relevant** to the admission decision.

- personal and family matters
- educational background, talents and experiences
- your reasons for applying to law school as they may relate to your personal or professional goals
- Most schools also allow you to submit an addendum. This should be used to explain how your background, experiences, personal goals will add to the class. It may also be used to explain grades or test scores that you feel require explanation. An example could be someone whose native language or background might have been from another country and how that has shaped your personal.

Purpose

- The personal element takes the place of a personal interview
- Brings you application to life
- Sets you apart from your peers
- It **CAN** make a big difference

What is the Goal?

- Persuade the admissions committee that you will be an asset to the incoming class and will be a good

Show Don't Tell

- Tell a story that allows the admissions committee to infer that you will be a welcome addition to the class
- You **MUST** have a central theme and ensure that all paragraphs relate back to that central theme.
- Example - I am someone who has always been motivated to remedy social injustice
 - Story from when you're in the third grade
 - How did this develop as you matured?
 - 1-2 examples of activities/initiatives you became

Common Pitfalls

- The ReN5b-m667E1.4(e)-1.43 T-1.43 Ta1.4(e)1.6 (S)TJ EMC /LbI -

Pointers

- Be specific, little details can add a lot of flavor
- Be yourself
- Get personal
- Talk about yourself as a human being as opposed to your accomplishments
- Don't forget about the wing

Getting Started

- Brainstorm
- Free write for 15 -20 minutes about a couple of the prompts below
 - personal and family matters
 - educational background, interests and experiences
 - or reason for applying to law school and how it relates to your personal or professional goals
- Formulate an idea and clear it with the Preceptor -Law

Personal Inventory Questions

About You

What makes you
unique?

What is a special
talent?

When did you decide

About What
You Done

You Academics

You are not Alone

- Writing Center
- Office of Pre-Law Advising
- Dr. Sgarman
- Career Center

