



Yale Law School Admissions Office Personal Statement Tip Sheet

What should your P.S. accomplish?

- Help us identify why law school is the next right step
 - YLS does not require a Why Yale Statement
- Tells us who you are (for better or for worse)
 - Authenticity matters

What should you avoid?

- Standing Out
 - Fancy/dramatic vs. solid
- Heavy curation vs. Effective editing
 - Substance vs. Form
- Subject matter vs. Tone
 - Trauma
- Excuses vs. Explanation
- Hyperbole vs. Powerful language
- Extended Metaphors; Themes; Titles
- Forgetting your audience
 - Personal details
 - Font and spacing!
 - Proofread
 - Footnotes; hyperlinks; poems, pictures, and highlighting
 - Word choice, jargon, plain English!

Topics:

- Past Focused
 - Delve into background and identity
- Present focused
 - Current work and interests
- Future Focused
 - Type of law that interests you and/or type of lawyer you want to be
- *Movement focused*
 - Touch on more than one of the above
 - How your past drives your future goals or present work inspires your law studies
- Always provide what is asked of you
 - Open ended vs. more specific P.S. prompts

Getting Started:

JUST WRITE SOMETHING DOWN! Have loved ones and colleagues interview you.

Re-work and refine!

*Helpful resource

<http://yalepodcasts.blubrry.net/2020/09/28/nailing-the-personal-statement/>