The Law School
Personal Statement

ATLS 2021
Writing Components of the Law School Application

- Personal statement
- Diversity statement
- Supplemental essay(s)
- Addendum (optional)
What the personal statement is:

- **A story:** tell the admissions officer who you are
  - What is a personal challenge you overcame?
  - What is a realization that you have had about yourself or the world?
  - What is your passion and how did you come to be passionate about it?
  - Etc.

- **An argument:** convince the admissions officer that *they want you* at their school
  - Law school is a specific commitment that you are ready to take
  - You have an idea of the type of lawyer you want to be
  - You know what you want out of a law school
What the personal statement is not:

- An all-encompassing statement of the multifaceted, complex person that you are
- A mandatory prompt for you to talk about “the hardest thing you have ever been through”
- A commitment to practicing a particular type of law
- Information that is communicated by other parts of your application (i.e. transcript, resume, diversity statement)
- A “since I was young, I’ve always known I would be a lawyer because…” story.
- An essay you can write in one draft
Format & Style:

- About 2-4 pages, double-spaced (varies from school to school)
- About \( \frac{1}{3} \) description of “the event,” \( \frac{2}{3} \) reflection
- Formal(ish) language; clear and concise
How to approach the personal statement

- Reflect on what you want to communicate
- The personal statement as one part of the application
- Give yourself plenty of time for multiple drafts
- Think about who you want to review your drafts
- Write!!