



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!!**