



Crafting a compelling personal statement is crucial for law school applications, as it offers a unique opportunity to showcase your individuality, experiences, and motivations beyond academic achievements.

Focus on you

Your personal statement needs to be about *you*. Not the people or work that influenced you. You. (While a mother, father, or grandparent can inspire an interest in law, don't focus your personal statement on that person)

Be genuine

You don't need to be a superhero to impress the law school admissions committee. Don't stretch the truth

Remember your "why"

You want to go to law school to work in the legal field. But why? Why is law school a critical next step in your career plan and life path?

While you don't need to spell out your ten-point plan for becoming a lawyer, your underlying reasons for going to law school should be the foundation of your personal statement.

Be specific

Don't try to fit your life story into your personal statement. Keep your essay focused on a particular theme, thesis, or even moment in time.

Part of the challenge is that you're limited in space, so you must be both succinct and efficient with your writing. And whatever you do, don't just rehash other information that's elsewhere in your application.

You should also have a good sense of what your intended schools are all about. So read the school's mission statement, news, and social media feeds. Get a sense of what's important to the institution and then try to weave those values in your personal statement.

Proofread

Finally, ask others to review your personal statement too, like an undergrad professor, mentor, or that good college friend who aced English. You can also take your essay to the writing or career services office of your undergrad school (these services are often available long after you graduate too).



The Justice Essay is a UDC Law requirement. Check with your intended school for other essay requirements.

Crafting a compelling justice essay requires thoughtful reflection. Here are five essential tips to guide you:

Choose a Personal and Meaningful Topic

Select a subject that resonates deeply with you and offers insight into your character, experiences, and motivations. Authenticity is key; writing about something genuinely significant to you will naturally convey passion and sincerity.

Tell a Story with a Clear Narrative Arc

Engage your readers by narrating a story that has a distinct beginning, middle, and end. This approach not only makes your essay more memorable but also demonstrates your ability to communicate effectively—a crucial skill in law.

Show, Don't Just Tell

Illustrate your points with specific examples. Instead of stating facts about yourself, depict scenarios that highlight your qualities and experiences, allowing readers to visualize and connect with your journey.

Be Concise and Adhere to Guidelines

Respect word or page limits set by the institution. A concise essay reflects your ability to communicate effectively and follow instructions essential for a successful law career.

Revise Thoroughly and Seek Feedback

Meticulous proofreading is vital to eliminate grammatical errors and ensure clarity. Additionally, obtaining feedback from mentors, peers, or advisors can provide valuable perspectives and enhance the quality of your essay. By implementing these strategies, you'll be well-equipped to craft a justice essay that stands out in your law school application.

Here are two specific examples:

Addressing Social Injustice: One applicant shared their experience working with underprivileged communities, highlighting how systemic inequalities motivated them to pursue a legal career. They detailed their involvement in advocacy projects and emphasized their desire to use legal education to effect meaningful change.

Personal Encounters with Injustice: Another applicant recounted a personal experience where they or someone close faced legal challenges without adequate representation. This narrative demonstrated their firsthand understanding of the justice system's flaws and inspired their commitment to becoming an attorney to advocate for others in similar situations.