



Lowell House Pre-Law Committee

*Personal Statement Tips:*

- 1) Make it interesting: Write about something that you care about and that you can describe vividly.
- 2) Find your voice: A personal statement that reads like an analytical self-portrait is occasionally decent and often mediocre. A personal statement that reads the way you speak and think is much better.
- 3) Actions speak louder than words: Avoid telling your readers that you are smart, thoughtful, motivated, compassionate, or worldly; show them with a story.
- 4) They will read your resume, too: Don't feel that you need to include every item on your resume in your personal statement.
- 5) Don't feel that you have to write an essay about why you were born to go to law school or why you will be a good lawyer. But don't leave the reader completely at a loss as to why you are applying to law school.
- 6) Start with a good hook: But avoid cliché.
- 7) Modesty is the best policy: Avoid arrogance or anything that might be misinterpreted as arrogance. The Pre-Law Committee will highlight your achievements in your Dean's Letter.
- 8) Remember your audience: Avoid statements that might offend the reader (i.e. remarks about how you are different from "most law school applicants" or "the typical law student").
- 9) Keep it professional: Avoid language that is overly casual.
- 10) Expect to revise: Few people write a polished personal statement on the first try. Be willing to redraft or switch topics if necessary.
- 11) Submit a draft to the Lowell House Personal Statement Review: You will get invaluable feedback from the Pre-Law Tutors. The deadline is **September 13, 2009**.