



THE PATH TO A **POWERFUL PERSONAL STATEMENT***

IDENTIFY TOPICS

- Your top life experiences
- Long-term goals you achieved
- Hardships you overcame
- Rare and special qualities you possess

TELL YOUR STORY

- Dictate your entire story out loud. Don't worry about how you sound; keep going until you're finished.
- When typing your first draft, don't hit the backspace key. Editing will come later.

ADD CONTEXT RELEVANT TO LAW SCHOOL

- Include evidence of your (1) motivation, (2) professional growth, and/or (3) academic ability in your story. Explain how these details relate to your readiness for law school.
- Tie your personal story to your decision to apply to law school.

REFINE YOUR TOPICS

- Look for patterns and themes in your experiences.
- Remove examples that could be included in your resume instead or that discuss LSAT or GPA deficiencies.
- Choose one or two examples to highlight in your statement.

EDIT FOR SUBSTANCE

- Make sure you included all of the pertinent details: who, what, when, where, and how.
- Organize your story so that it has a logical progression. It can be chronological, by topic, or by order of importance.

EDIT FOR GRAMMAR AND STYLE

- Read your statement out loud to catch mistakes.
- Have others review it.
- After editing, put it down for at least a day and then review it again.

*This advice is specific to the New York Law School application, which asks for a personal statement. Be sure to read the prompts in each school's application before drafting a statement.