



Written Statements Workshop



Goals for the Session

- Provide an overview of the two required written statements at Harvard Law School
- Develop potential topics through a guided brainstorming and peer-sharing exercise
- Answer your questions



Why they matter

Your written statements...

- Convey who you are, why you want to go to law school, and how you envision being a part of HLS and the legal communities
- Showcase your writing quality
- Provide an opportunity to tie all of your application components together for the reader

Our Prompts

Statement of Purpose

What motivates you to pursue law? How does attending law school align with your ambitions, goals, and vision for your future?

Statement of Perspective

The Admissions Committee makes every effort to understand who you are as an individual and potential Harvard Law School student and graduate. Please share how your experiences, background, and/or interests have shaped you and will shape your engagement in the HLS community and the legal profession.



Format Requirements

- Check each school's instructions
- For HLS:
 - One to two pages each
 - Double-spaced
 - Minimum 11-point font
 - One-inch margins





Statement of Purpose

What motivates you to pursue law? How does attending law school align with your ambitions, goals, and vision for your future?

Guiding Questions

- Reflect on three memorable experiences that have shaped your desire to study law.
- What areas of law interest you? Why?
- What are three things you could see yourself doing with a law degree?
- Why is now the best time for you to get your law degree?





Statement of Perspective

Please share how your experiences, background, and/or interests have shaped you and will shape your engagement in the HLS community and the legal profession.

Guiding Questions

- What experiences have shaped you? More specifically, how do those experiences influence how you engage with your school, work, and/or communities?
- What identities do you hold that are important to you? How do those identities shape the way you think about the law and the ways you engage with the world around you?
- What do you hope to bring to the HLS community?



Next Steps

1. Outline

Make a plan for how you want to structure your statements.

2. Draft and Revise

Expect to undergo many revisions before submitting your statements.

3. Seek feedback

Reach out to advisors, professors, or even peers to get feedback. Outsider perspectives can be immensely valuable.



Aim to Convey:

Statement of Purpose

Your motivation(s) for attending law school and how law school aligns with your goals and vision for the future.

Statement of Perspective

How your experiences, background, and/or interests have shaped you and will shape your engagement in the HLS community and legal profession.

Our Advice

The Written Statements are...

- Professional pieces of writing – your statements should be clear, concise, and straightforward – no need for creative risks
- A confirmation that you are confident in law school as your next step





Our Advice

The Written Statements are not...

- All-encompassing statements of your complexities as a person
- A commitment to practicing a certain type of law
- A restatement of another part of your application (e.g., reciting your resume)
- Lengthy odes to HLS
- Essays you write in only one draft



Reflections & FAQs

- What resonated with you during this workshop?
- What action steps will you take following this presentation?

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Application Toolkit: Written Statements



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