

# Personal Statement Workshop

Lolia Wood -Hill

# The Basics

- Top pages double spaced.
- Follow instructions
- Put your name and LSAC number in the top righthand corner of the first page.
- No gimmicks pictures or cover pages
- Remember your audience is likely
  - Over the age of 35
  - Not your parent friend
  -

# Personal Statement

A personal statement of no more than typed pages double spaced, is required. The statement should inform the Admissions Committee of any factors the applicant deems relevant to the admission decision.

- personal and family matters
- educational background, talent and experiences
- or reasons for applying to law school as they may relate to your personal or professional goals
- Most schools also allow you to submit an addendum. This should be used to explain how your background, experiences, personal goals, etc. will add to the class. It may also be used to explain grades or test scores that you feel require explanation. An example could be someone who's native language or background might have been from another country and how that has shaped your personal.

# Propos

- The personal statement takes the place of a personal interview
- Brings you application to life
- Sets you apart from your peers
- It **CAN** make a big difference

# What is the Goal?

- Persuade the admissions committee that you will be an asset to the incoming class and will be a good

# Show Don't Tell

- Tell a story that allows the admissions committee to infer that you will be a welcome addition to the class
- You MUST have a central theme and ensure that all paragraphs relate back to that central theme.
- Example - I am someone who has always been motivated to remedy social injustice
  - Story from when you were in the third grade
  - How did this develop as you matured?
  - 1-2 examples of activities/initiatives you became

# Common Pitfalls

- The ReN5b-m667E1.4(e)-1.43 T-1.43 Ta1.4(e)y.6 (x)TJ EMC /LbI

# Pointers

- Be specific, little details can add a lot of flavor
- Be yourself
- Get personal
- Talk about yourself as a human being as opposed to your accomplishments
- Don't forget about the ring



# Getting Started

- Brainstorm
- Free write for 15 -20 minutes about a couple of the prompts below
  - personal and family matters
  - educational background, life and experiences
  - or reasons for applying to law school other than legal or parental or professional goals
- Formulate an idea and clear it with the Pre-Law

# Personal Inventory Questions

About You

What makes you unique?

What is your favorite hobby?

When did you decide to go to college?

About What You've Done

About Your Academics

# You are not Alone

- Writing Center
- Office of Pre-Law Advising
- Dr. Sgarman
- Career Center

