

Law School Personal Statement Peer Review Guide

Reviewer Name:

Writer Name:

Reviewer Rules

- Be honest. Vague praise does not help.
- Focus on clarity and argument, not commas.
- If something confuses you, say so.
- If something moves you intellectually, explain why.
- You are not editing grammar.
- You are evaluating argument, clarity, and readiness for legal study.

I. The Core Argument

After reading the statement once, answer:

1. In one sentence, what is this essay arguing about the writer as a future law student?
2. Is that claim clear and focused?

- ☐ Yes
☐ Somewhat
☐ No

If unclear, what feels vague or unfocused?

II. Evidence & Substance

1. Does the essay show decision-making and judgment, or mostly describe events?

- ☐ Strong evidence of judgment
☐ Some evidence
☐ Mostly summary

2. Identify one moment where the writer demonstrates:

- Analytical thinking
- Ethical awareness
- Growth
- Intellectual discipline

Quote or summarize briefly:

3. Where does the essay drift into résumé summary?

III. Reflection Depth

1. Does the writer explain *why* the experience mattered?

- ☐ Deep reflection
- ☐ Surface-level reflection
- ☐ Mostly descriptive

2. What assumption, belief, or approach changed for the writer?

3. Where could the writer push the reflection further?

IV. Structure & Clarity

1. Does each paragraph have a clear purpose?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Mostly
- ☐ No

2. Are transitions logical, or does it feel chronological?

3. Identify one sentence that could be cut without weakening the essay.

V. Law School Readiness

After reading, answer honestly:

1. What qualities does this writer demonstrate that would matter in law school?

- ☐ Analytical rigor
- ☐ Writing precision
- ☐ Intellectual curiosity
- ☐ Discipline
- ☐ Ethical reasoning
- ☐ Resilience
- ☐ Other: _____

2. Do you believe this person is prepared for the intellectual demands of law school?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Almost
- ☐ Not yet

Explain briefly:

VI. Final Feedback

Complete these sentences:

The strongest part of this statement is:

The one revision that would most improve this essay is:

One question I still have about you is:

AI Use Statement: AI was used for structural organization and developmental outlining of author's core original ideas.

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