



# Personal Statement for Law School

Some Ideas, Tips, and Suggestions

# Remember what you know about good writing

- Every successful text has an introduction, body, conclusion.
- Focus on your **audience**: the law school's Admissions Board. Be sure you learn as much about your audience as you can.
- Focus on your **purpose**: getting a seat in law school and *to showcase your writing skills*
- Tweak for the different schools (audiences) as necessary.



**Look at sample personal statements online.**

**This site gives some good examples, along with explanations for writing strategies: <https://www.shemmassianconsulting.com/blog/law-school-personal-statement#part-3-what-should-a-law-school-personal-statement-do>**

# Read the prompt

- While you can *possibly* write one personal statement for each law school application, chances are you will need to tweak your statement for the prompts offered by the different schools.
- Make every effort to tailor your statement for each school – even if you are only making minor changes.

# Remember the *personal* part of the statement

Give the Admissions Board a chance to know you more personally. You will have given a lot of information on the application; make this more **specific and unique**, while at the same time introducing yourself to the Admission Board.

# **Do not write a discursive version of your résumé.**

Your résumé can stand for itself; you do not need to rehash the information in it.

# Be careful about being overly emotional

If your statement covers a sad story or something that causes you to be emotional for any reason, take a step away and get advice from others about the impact your statement can have on a reader.

# Be honest.

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Do not be compelled to exaggerate stories to make you seem unique.

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Aim to be authentic and true to who you are as an individual.

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You do not need to share obstacles you have overcome or life struggles you tackled. *You are sharing something important about **you**.*

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Do not write the personal statement you *think* the law school wants to read.



# Clarify why you are pursuing law school.

Are you hoping to impact the world in some way?

Are you aiming to carry on the work of another?

Are you demonstrating the influence of someone or a life event?

Do you have other goals?

# Make it interesting.



Tell a story.



Offer an insight.



Most importantly: Make the reader want to read to the end and stay engaged.



*Offer humor with caution, as it may be misinterpreted.*

# Revise with care.

- Make macro-level changes that
  - Focus on consistent content.
    - What is your thesis?
    - Is your thesis clear throughout the statement?
  - Focus on organization.
    - Does the order of your paragraphs make sense?
    - Do you need transitional sentences or words to clarify how you are connecting things?
    - Does the order of sentences within paragraphs make sense?

# Revise, cont.

Read through your draft as if you are the audience. What would convince you to read on and to be interested in you as a candidate for law school?

Walk away from your draft several times during your revision stages.

Let someone else read over your draft with an eye toward macro-level changes.

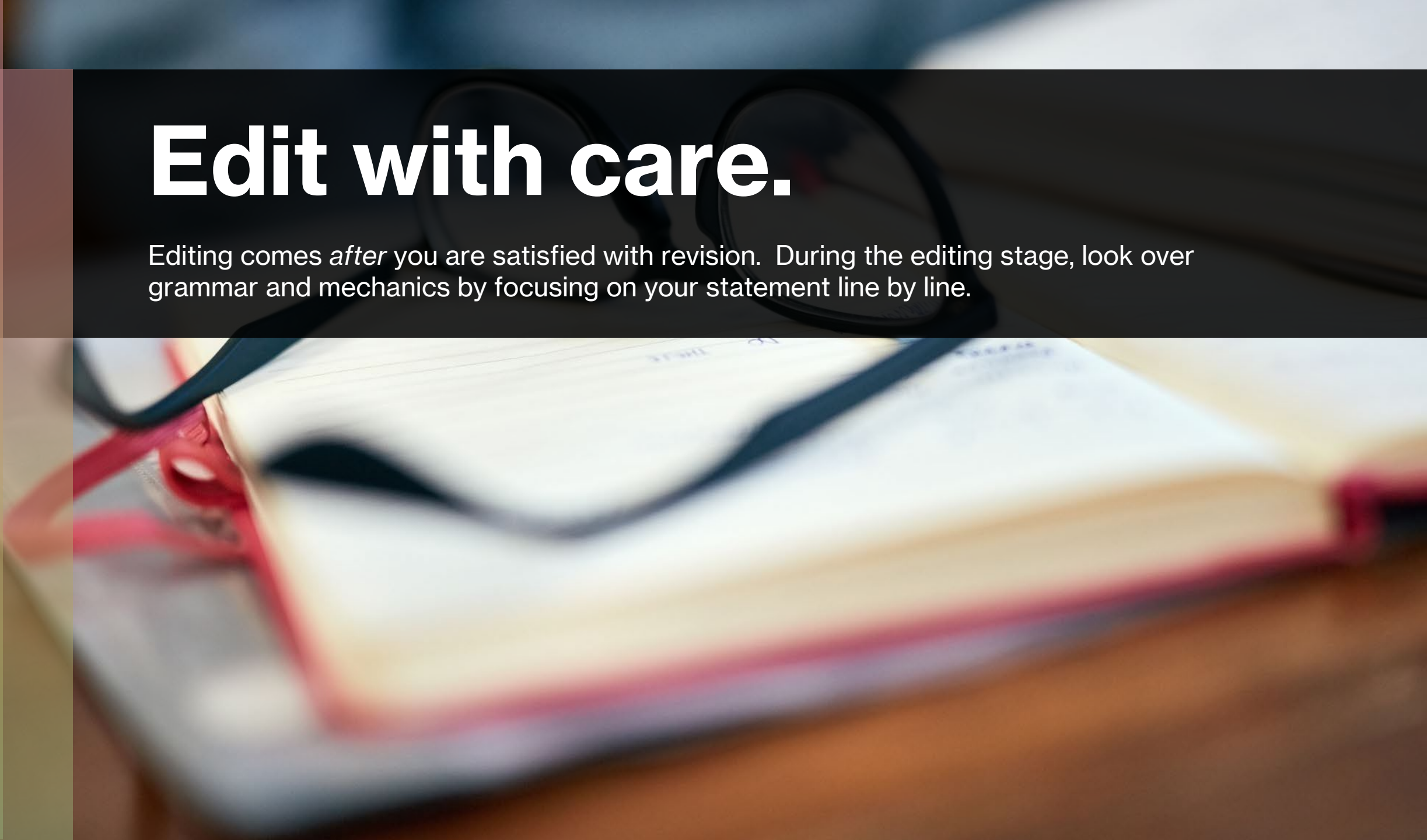
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*Walk away from your draft several times during your revision stages.*

*Let someone else read over your draft with an eye toward macro-level changes.*

# Edit with care.

Editing comes *after* you are satisfied with revision. During the editing stage, look over grammar and mechanics by focusing on your statement line by line.



The background features a vertical gradient bar on the left side, transitioning from dark blue at the top to light green at the bottom. To the right of this bar is a field of 3D, dark grey letters and symbols, including 'G', 'S', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'H', 'I', 'J', 'K', 'L', 'M', 'N', 'O', 'P', 'Q', 'R', 'S', 'T', 'U', 'V', 'W', 'X', 'Y', 'Z', and punctuation marks like '!', '@', '#', '\$', '%', '&', '(', ')', '=', '>', '<', '}', '~', and '¨'.

# Proofread!

After you are satisfied with grammar and mechanics, look for any careless errors (i.e. using the wrong synonym, capitalizing words correctly, punctuating at the end of sentences, etc.). While spelling and grammar checkers will catch a lot, they will not catch everything.

# Resources

Resource references for this presentation:

[How to Write a Law School Personal Statement – Kaplan Test Prep \(kaptest.com\)](#)

[The Law School Personal Statement: Tips and Templates - School of Law - University at Buffalo](#)

Other good resources:

[PersonalStatement \(gmu.edu\)](#)

[personal\\_statement\\_law.pdf \(washington.edu\)](#)

