



Law Admission Guide

The keys to help you compose winning LAW admission documents and enter the highly selective law school.

Table of content

Juris Doctor Vs. Master of Law	3
<u>Common requirements</u>	4
The structure of your Law Admission Documents	5
<u>Accomplishments</u>	5
<u>Significant Activities</u>	7
<u>Skills and Characteristics</u>	8
<u>Turning Points</u>	9
<u>Long- and Short-Term Goals</u>	10
Types of documents you need to prepare	11
<u>Personal Statement</u>	11
<u>CV/Resume</u>	14
<u>Letter of recommendation</u>	17
Final words	19
Increase your MBA Admissions Chances	20

Juris Doctor Vs. Master of Law

There are a number of degree majors related to law and legal studies. However, there are two specifically designed for aspiring attorneys who intend to sit for the bar exam, practice in a court of law and who choose to specialize in a particular area of law.

A **Juris Doctor (JD)** is a foundational and terminal law degree program that is typically a prerequisite for a Master of Laws (LLM) degree program. JD degree programs are usually broader in their legal scope, while LLM degree programs are highly specialized.

JD degree programs are law programs that prepare students to cover a wide range of legal topics. These degree programs are usually 2 to 4 years long and are available on campus and online. Some JD programs may offer various areas of interest, such as general practice, criminal law, intellectual property law, public law, tax law, tribal law, constitutional law and more. Students in JD programs conduct a lot of legal research and are required to do a lot of writing as they take courses in topics like contracts, criminal law, civil procedure, legal analysis, property and others.

LLM degree programs are specialized degree programs that are usually only 1 year in length. Some of these degree programs may offer a course-only or thesis track, while others may require students to complete an extensive writing project prior to graduation.



Common requirements

It is common for both JD and LLM degree programs to require students to submit their official transcripts, *letters of recommendation*, a personal statement and/or a *resume* or *CV* with their application to the program. JD degree programs usually expect students to hold a bachelor's degree and may have a minimum GPA requirement of a 3.0 or higher. These degree programs also usually request students to submit their LSAT scores. LLM degree programs require applicants to hold a JD, but usually do not require LSAT scores. LLM degree programs may also expect applicants to have a few years of work experience beyond law school. Most *international students* for the LL.M. program must take the TOEFL or IELTS as part of their admission process.



The structure of your Law Admission Documents

Some applicants may want to use the following list as a springboard as they develop their own connections. You can browse the questions below without a specific structure in mind and see what results from that free-association process. On the other hand, some people prefer to have more guidance as they brainstorm, and for those people we have ordered and grouped the questions into a logical structure.

Each subtopic begins with a series of questions and then an explanation of their potential relevance to the big picture.

Accomplishments

- What significant challenges have you overcome in your personal, professional, or academic life?
- Have you been published? Describe your accomplishments in research.
- Describe accomplishments for which you have been formally recognized. What qualities did you demonstrate in your path to success? What does each accomplishment mean to you personally?
- Describe accomplishments for which you have not been formally recognized but that you are particularly proud of. Take even more time to reflect on why these have special meaning for you.
- Discuss an accomplishment in which you exercised leadership. How effective were you in motivating or guiding others? How did people respond to your leadership?
- What did you learn that you can apply to future experiences?
- What was an important risk that you took in your personal, professional, or academic life? Why did you take this risk? What was the outcome? Would you do it again?

- Think of a time when you truly helped someone. What did you do? How did this impact the other person? How did your actions impact you?
- Please give an example of when you exhibited creativity in a personal, professional, or academic setting. Describe your thoughts and actions.
- Reflect on a time in which you failed to accomplish what you set out to do. How did you recover from that failure? How did you respond to your next challenge?

The important point here is that you develop insight into your accomplishments beyond their face value. Your essay should not merely list your most significant successes, nor is it enough to say that you're proud of them. You need to dig deeper to discover what these accomplishments mean to you, what they say about you, and how you learned from them. Also, reflect closely on your path to achievement rather than on the result itself.



Significant Activities

- To what non-work (or non-academic) activity did you give the most time over the past year? The past several years?
- What has been your most significant service activity? Your most memorable one-time volunteer opportunity? Your longest regular volunteerism commitment?
- What has been your most significant cross-cultural experience? Why? How did it change your perspective?
- Can you identify trends in your commitments? What do they say about your values and abilities?
- Have you worked in any legal setting? What have you enjoyed about the experience? What strengths were you able to draw upon?



Your readers want to gain insight into what you care most about and to see how you've devoted yourself.

Again, do not summarize your resume. Don't feel obligated to bring up every activity you've ever done, especially if it has been sufficiently covered elsewhere in the application. Remember that depth is more important than breadth. Your readers want to gain insight into what you care most about and to see how you've devoted yourself. Don't feel discouraged if you have never worked in a legal capacity. Many people have never stepped inside a law firm before their first summer job interviews. Also, don't feel that you need to exaggerate your commitment to community service. A lack of sincerity will be evident, and you're better off focusing on activities for which you have a real passion.

Skills and Characteristics

- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- How would your friends describe you?
- What skills are you most proud of?
- What values are most important to you?
- Think of a team situation in which you've been involved. What kind of role did you take? What abilities did you contribute?
- What skills do you possess that are most relevant to law? How have you applied them to specific situations? How have you continued to hone them?
- What personal qualities would make you a good lawyer? How have you demonstrated these qualities in specific situations?
- Try to come up with unique combinations of your skills and characteristics, and consider how these have applied in past experiences or will apply in your future career.
- Apart from anything related to law, what makes you an interesting person?

In this section you should begin by thinking broadly. Don't just name skills that you know the schools are looking for, because that will detract from the unique portrait you're trying to paint. Also, you might be surprised about how you can tie a skill from one area of your life into your current goals in law. That's why we also suggested that you come up with different combinations of your skills and characteristics. This exercise will help you to see yourself from different perspectives and recognize all that you have to offer.

Just as listing accomplishments and activities is unfruitful, you won't accomplish anything by simply naming skills. That's why this section has emphasized the question "How?" How have you demonstrated your skills and characteristics? Where is the evidence? Here again it's important to remember the movement within this brainstorming section from broad to specific. Perhaps you showed a specific ability in activities unrelated to law. The evidence can come from this separate area and still be tied in ultimately to your current situation.

Turning Points

- When and why did you first become interested in law?
- What subsequent experiences tested and confirmed this interest?
- Have you changed career paths? What was your motivation?
- Describe a defining moment in your path toward law. What did you realize about your prospective career and about yourself?
- Who were your early influences?
- Did you have any strong role models?
- Apart from law, describe a moment when you realized something new about yourself.

In your responses to these questions, you may want to draw upon answers from previous sections. The purpose of this section is for you to begin synthesizing your previous accomplishments and activities into a coherent argument for your candidacy. Because there won't be room for you to describe every aspect of your involvement in an activity, you may choose to relate a particular episode that epitomizes the key points you want to convey.

One issue you must be cautious about is placing too much emphasis on one-time events. In most cases, you will be adding meaning to a scenario retrospectively. Few of us are ever in the situation to make important, life-altering decisions based upon epiphanies. You don't want to attribute too much significance to any one event, but detailing the most meaningful, significant episodes from your background can help ensure that your essay stays concrete and personal.

Long- and Short-Term Goals

- Why have you chosen a career in law?
- What is your ultimate ambition?
- What short-term goals will help you to fulfill your long-term vision?
- How can this academic program help you to reach these goals?
- What attracts you to this particular school?

Members of our law school admissions panel have cautioned against too much emphasis on the unknown future, because people's goals change so drastically in the course of their studies. Be wary of describing goals that sound too naïve or idealistic: Your readers have seen phrases like "my desire to help others" and "changing society for the better" far too many times.

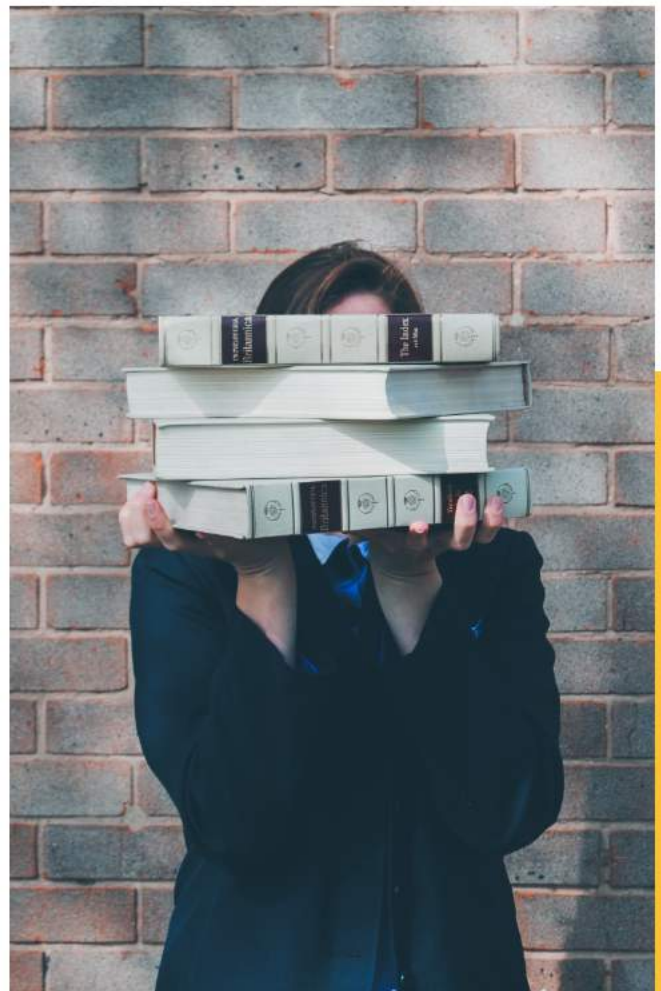
If, on the other hand, you have a specific cause in mind, and you have some kind of track record in that field, then you should emphasize your continuing commitment. For example, if you have experience in environmental or immigration law, you might describe specific objectives you hope to achieve in those fields. Relating such concrete goals is much more forceful than simply citing a vague commitment to serving your community.

Types of documents you need to prepare

Personal Statement

A **personal statement** for law school should make your application memorable. Law school personal statements offer the candidate the opportunity to direct the attention of the admissions committee to individual and specialized strengths which will contribute to the candidate's prospects for success in law school. So, be creative and thorough in writing your personal statement for law school, also being assertive in emphasizing your unique characteristics, skills, and motivation to attend law school.

The purpose of a personal statement for law school, from the perspective of the admissions committee, is to get to know the candidate better. This is the applicant's opportunity to show the admissions committee his or her personal strengths necessary for success in law school, which may not be highlighted in the application. The candidate's own cataloging of personal strengths and specific goals are ideal topics for law school personal statement topics. This is an opportunity to show the admissions committee why you are a strong candidate for their law school. Make yourself come alive on the written page, using good writing techniques and exciting, descriptive language. Describe your talents and aptitudes in your personal statement for law school, highlighting your strengths in the process.

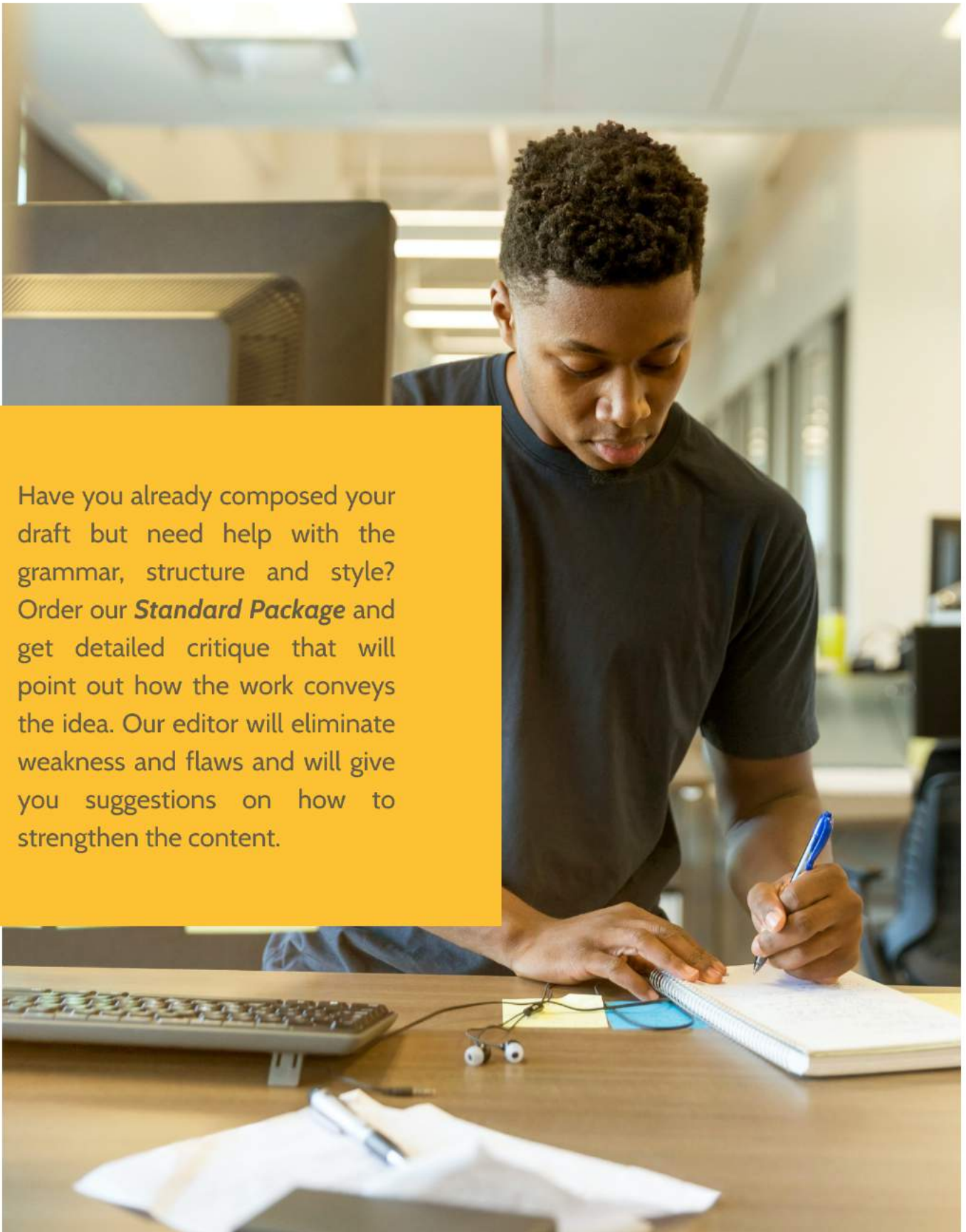


Excel When Writing on Law School Personal Statement Topics

How can you make yourself memorable in your personal statement for law school?

1. **First**, be positive and enthusiastic. Describe the specific attributes which would make you a good candidate for success in law school. You are more than likely dedicated, motivated, disciplined, a hard worker, a team player and a leader, and passionate about the law. These are some of the usual adjectives used in a personal statement for law school by prospective law students to describe themselves. Choose some new and unique adjectives and show how they describe you. Use a stirring story to make your personal statement for law school memorable.
2. **Second**, be creative and unique in the description of your strengths. Use innovative examples to illustrate your qualifications, rather than just offering a litany of attributes. Third, be judicious in your selection of law school personal statement topics. Be innovative and eloquent.

The addition of a compelling personal statement for law school could make your application stand out from the crowd. A memorable personal statement for law school has the potential to improve your chances for a successful law school application. Let your personality shine through the essay, highlighted by your strong intellect and passion for the law.



Have you already composed your draft but need help with the grammar, structure and style? Order our **Standard Package** and get detailed critique that will point out how the work conveys the idea. Our editor will eliminate weakness and flaws and will give you suggestions on how to strengthen the content.

CV/Resume

A law school resume showcases your education, experience, and other unique attributes to the admissions panel. Check this guide to know how to create your compelling CV for law school.

How to Write a Resume for Law School Like a Pro

Some schools will require you to submit a law school application resume to be considered. If an institution with this demand is on your radar, then crafting a perfect CV for law school will prove handy. After all, this document will provide an avenue where you can impress the admissions panel with information on your unique attributes and the value you can offer to a school. However, before you rush to create your application, it helps to note that a law school CV is nothing like a job resume. So, in that regard, this article will tell you everything you need to know about writing a resume for law school. Let's start.

Provide the Right Information in Your Resume for Law School

Some sections are essential to any resume for the law school application. *These are:*

| Your Contact Details

Some of the information you can provide under this section include your name, email address, phone number, home info (nonobligatory), and LinkedIn (nonobligatory.)

| Education Information

Your educational details carry the most weight in the document. For this reason, you're required to write this section to your best. Be sure to give the name of your college, dates attended, degree earned, and study abroad info. If possible, include some more relevant details, e.g., the location of your school, GPA, coursework, accomplishments, and so forth.

| Relevant Experience

Writing this section will help the intakes panel understand your expert life, the capabilities you've acquired, and your work-related accomplishments. The info

you can give here includes volunteer work, employment, research, and internship. Remember, the point here is to only dwell on what is relevant.

When providing info in this section, use six to seven bullet points, adopt the reverse-chronological structure, focus on your accomplishments, quantify where possible, use action verbs, and include occupation's title, organization name, and dates.

All told, these first three segments (contact information, education, and professional experience) are mandatory.

Depending on what you can offer, some other parts to include are:

- Skills
- Publications
- Extracurricular Activities
- Leadership Roles

Format Your Resume for Law School Properly

When it comes to formatting your CV, the paramount thing to do is to check and implement the specifications your institution has provided. With that done, always use the reverse-chronological structure, whereby you list your latest education and experience followed by earlier info.

Other essential things to do are to:

- Use a legible font
- Craft understandable headers
- Use bullets
- Avoid clustering info in a single part.

Know the Required Length for a Law School Resume and Stick to It

Can't wait to tell the law school admission board just how awesome you are? Well, before you get started, know that there's a limitation to how much you can talk about. Some universities have their own specifics when it comes to length. For instance, Stanford accepts one- or two-pages long resumes. Others give a little more freedom. However, the standard length for the school resume is two pages and a maximum of three.

Find a Law School Resume Template You Can Use

You definitely want your CV to be well-structured. For that, you will need a good CV template. A template will help to guide and remind to give a specific detail so that nothing of significance is left out. You can search for and compare free templates online.

Looking for additional tips that can assist in making your CV stand out? Apart from following the recommended format, structure, and length, also keep these pointers in mind before, during, and after crafting your school law CV:

- ***Do allocate time pre-writing*** to organize your thoughts: during this time, briefly note down all the things you would like to put in the resume.
- ***Do emphasize accomplishments***, experiences, and interests that help to show your strong suits, e.g., determination, self-drive, leadership, sense of community, public speaking, etc.
- ***Do mind your presentation***: your resume should look professional. Be consistent. If, for example, you use bullet points for your first list, don't switch to roman numbers on another one.
- ***Do proofread at least twice***: go through your entire document to ensure it is spick and span. You may also have another person go through it, like a mentor or professional counselor, to give you an opinion.

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- ***Don't recycle an old resume***: the chances are that it's already outdated and won't depict who you are now.

“If you have too much to say, filter out anything that isn't very necessary.”

- ***Don't tire the reader*** with a long list of insignificant interests or activities: leave out high school activities unless they are of great relevance.
- ***Don't exceed two pages if possible***: you can't talk about everything in your school resume. If you have too much to say, filter out anything that isn't very necessary.

Letter of recommendation

Most law schools are interested in academic/professional letters of recommendation. Learn everything you need to know about these documents here.

How to Write a Law School Recommendation Letter

A law school letter of recommendation is an official document that supports a student's application for law school. It provides substantive insights into the attributes of an applicant and has a significant impact on the decision made by the admissions panel. If your prospective school emphasizes this letter, then your application will be incomplete if you do not include a letter of recommendation law school in the documents you send for consideration. Note, letters of recommendation for law school hold weight when written by your former professor, instructor, or supervisor. That said, let's highlight the essential things when it comes to these letters.

How Many Recommendation Letters Must Be Provided?

The letters of recommendation you have to provide will vary from one law school to another. For this reason, it is advisable to check the requirements of your school in LSAC. Nonetheless, most of the time,

2 or 4 letters are necessary. Thus, it means that while most institutions will ask for 2 letters, they'll still welcome your submission of 4 letters.

Tips for Getting a Recommendation Letter

Acquiring a recommendation letter is not as straightforward as it may seem, but rather, it is a meticulous procedure. You have to do the following to get one:

Choose who you will ask: Identify your recommender. It should be a person who knows you in an academic or professional context.



Make an appointment: It is advisable to ask your recommender to write your letter in person. Nonetheless, before going to them, make a point of calling or emailing them in advance. A one-month heads up is often sufficient.

Plan what to say: While most recommenders are often people you are familiar with professionally or in school, some might be caught off guard when you tell them about your plans to join law school. So, to avoid any awkward moments, be prepped to respond to their queries about you and your plans.

Prep what you will carry: To ensure that the recommender has a smooth sail, it makes sense to give useful papers such as your resume, transcripts, graded tests, personal statements, and so forth.

Ensure that you are getting a positive letter: The last thing you want is a letter that paints you in a bad light. So, if you feel that your recommender cannot write a positive letter, it is best to look elsewhere.

“Focus on the aspects that you can speak of with no trouble.”

Review: If you are using LOR, always check to see if the professor or supervisor has uploaded your document. This way, you can ensure that your letter is submitted on time.

Say thank you: Show gratitude to your recommender after they write the letter for you.

What to Say in a Recommendation Letter for Law School

To write a good law school recommendation letter for someone, you should first understand what the admission boards look for in candidates. That is the skills and capabilities that the applicant possesses. However, you probably don't know everything about the candidate. So, it's best to focus on the aspects that you can speak of with no trouble. You can disclose what focus areas you will discuss to the applicant so that they can look for other people to cover the other aspects.

If it's your first time writing such a letter, it would be helpful to have a law school letter of recommendation sample. With a good letter of recommendation for the law school sample, you will have a better idea of what structure to follow when writing.

Talking of the writing process, here's how to go about it:

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- Say thank you: Show gratitude to your recommender after they write the letter for you.

Final Words

A recommendation letter helps law schools get valuable insights about a potential student's promise. So, if you are writing a recommendation letter for someone hoping to join law school, try to highlight their strongest qualities. Be specific and honest. Look for two to four people who you think can best recommend you.

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