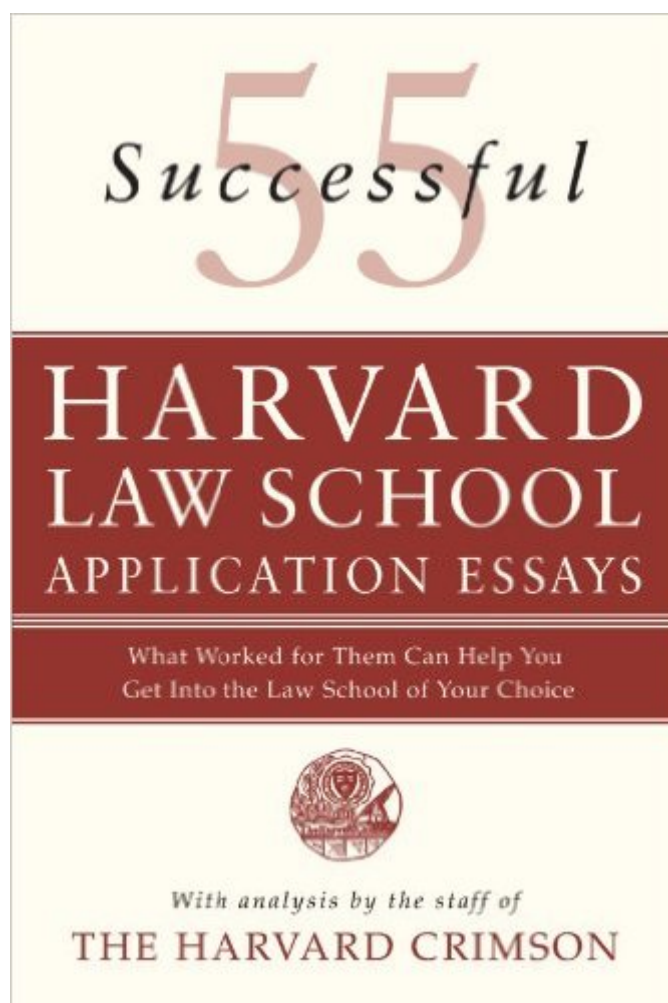


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# 55 Successful Harvard Law School Application Essays: What Worked For Them Can Help You Get Into The Law School Of Your Choice



## Synopsis

Separate yourself from the pack. Competition has never been more intense for admittance into the nation's top law schools. The application essay represents your only chance to plea your case to admissions officers. Why select you over so many other qualified applicants? Your essay needs to do more than simply list your background and accomplishments. It must reveal the depth of your passion for law, the discipline you bring to this demanding profession, and the strength of character you possess for the ethical and moral challenges that lie ahead. Learn by example. Harvard Law School is one of the premier law schools in America. Every year, thousands of elite applicants try for a few hundred slots. Of the dedicated few accepted, fifty-five have shared the application essays that helped them make the cut.\* Learn what works.\* Structure your essay for maximum impact.\* Avoid common pitfalls. Each essay is analyzed by the staff of the Harvard Crimson, Harvard's daily newspaper, and accompanied by no-nonsense advice on crafting your own. 55 Successful Harvard Law School Application Essays will give you all the help you need to write the essay that will get you in.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a good book to read if you are interested in seeing sample law school admissions essays. In general, these essays are written at a high level of quality to which many law school applicants would aspire. However, the title of this book is somewhat misleading. These essays are not necessarily "successful" in the sense that they definitely helped the writers to get into law school;

these essays were submitted to the Harvard Crimson newspaper by their authors, not identified by Harvard admissions officers as exceptional essays. Therefore, although these are the essays of successful applicants, it is hard to say to what extent the essays factored into admissions decisions. Based on the quality of the essays compared to the quality of the applicants (most of whom are practicing lawyers with profiles posted online), I'd guess that other factors played a much stronger role in the admission of many of these candidates. The quality of the commentary provided in this book is also questionable. The reviewers are undergraduate student reporters, not admissions officers, and in many cases their commentary is at odds with that provided by admissions officers on law school web pages and in interviews. Further, the commentary is provided by multiple different reviewers, and each has a different idea of what constitutes a good essay. If nothing else, one might recall this diversity and feel comforted later, when some school unexpectedly offers up a rejection letter -- admissions committees probably have opinions just as diverging as those of Harvard undergraduates. In any case, I wouldn't use the opinions of these students, good writers though they undoubtedly are, as a guide on how to craft a great essay for the very specific purpose of law school admissions.

Inspiration, but nothing else. I really liked this book and it helped inspire me in my writing process, but it gave me nothing else beyond that. The personal essay is just that, personal, and so, just note, that this will not "write the essay for you" or give you skills over night. Just a helpful note from a current law student to potential, future law students.

I'm a tutor and bought this book for a student. It gave us both guidance in preparing the all important application essay. I enjoyed seeing the variety of essays that had been written by successful applicants to this top law school. The reviews and annotations by the Harvard Crimson staff are of great help to readers in understanding how to express their own individual reasons for wanting to enter the legal field. The essays themselves are enjoyable to me as an educator and inspirational to the student who wrote an excellent "Why you should pick me." The jury is still out on her admission to law school. Update: She got into the law school of her choice. Bravo!

This book really helped me to write a great personal statement for law school that would stand out among thousands of other applicants.

Incredibly useful source for helping prospective law school students compose their personal

statements. I would highly recommend this to anyone considering, or in the process of sending out their law school applications. Plus it shows you exactly where you stand in relation to others (it profiles various accepted/rejected students with their personal statements and their LSAT scores/GPA/School/Accolades and shows what schools they got into).

So the essays are interesting. I bought it because I was freaking out about my law school applications. I would not say it's a necessary purchase if you are freaking out about apps like I was... but it's still a fun read.

This is just raw essays and commentary. There is no advice on writing a law school admissions essay. The commentary is OK, but sometimes they miss the big picture of what's wrong with the essay because these are edited by undergrads who don't know anything about law school admissions. So don't take the commentary as the authoritative voice of what most law school admissions would say. It's just one non-law applicant's take. That said, there is a dearth of good essay examples out there for law schools, though there are plenty of bad ones. If you really want to improve, it's best to see what other applicants are writing, which you can do by going to the forums at top-law-schools.com, and swapping essays with people there. After a while, you will see what makes a bad essay. So it's nice to see well-written essays as an example, and that's the value in this resource. The biggest problem is that this is a book of essays of Harvard admits, who do more interesting and amazing things than the average applicant. Even if their writing style was more boring, their accomplishments aren't. So what's in it for the rest of us, who lived a life of average opportunities and experiences? Not much, but at least you'll know why you didn't get into Harvard.

Perhaps the people who were surprised by how "cookie-cutter" or unimaginative these essays are simply do not understand what law schools are looking for. First, in many ways the goal of legal writing is to be succinct, clear, and interesting but necessarily creative. If these essays show that ability, then that evidences the requisite skills. Likening undergraduate admissions essays to that of law school is majorly flawed for the reason I just gave. Just another testament to why students apply to law school need this book---to learn the "secret" formula and know that being flashy is not the goal. Second, law schools are looking for diversity of background and interesting stories---particularly at the Ivy level. Many of their candidates have 3.9 GPAs, a masters, and a 174 LSAT. But what about your life will improve their campus dynamic? Sorry, but the gentleman a few reviews back simply missed the point of this book, these essays, the law, and the law school

admissions process when he said these essays fell flat of his lofty and misguided standard.

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