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**\*Grading rubric rules/ allocation of points:**

Yes = full points

For the most part = three-quarters of points

Almost / Kind of / Maybe = half points

A little / Barely = a quarter of points

No = zero points

**Personal Statement Rubric**

Criteria	Notes	Highest Possible Score	Actual Score
<b>Key purpose.</b> In an easy to summarize way, did applicant explain why they want to go to law school? (Did they explicitly state what kind of law they want to practice?)		20	
<b>Theme.</b> Did applicant stick to one or two main topics/themes rather than throw too much into their personal statement? (By themes, I really mean stories – more than 2 unrelated stories can oftentimes feel chaotic).		20	
<b>Personal.</b> Did applicant come off as honest, sincere, vulnerable, and / or authentic? Was personal statement about them? Did reader learn something unique about the applicant's story?		10	
<b>Sincerity.</b> Did applicant avoid using cliché's and making statements that sound good but are actually not impressive (e.g., your school is the very best; I've always wanted to be a lawyer; etc.)		10	

<b>Page limits.</b> Did the essay adhere to page limits, font size, and margin requirements? (2 pages – more if school explicitly says explain why them, 11 - 12 pt font, double spaced, normal margins)		10	
<b>Content.</b> Did the applicant make a good use of their space? Is this the story they ought to have told/topic they should have focused on? (Questions: why law school, vision post law school?)		10	
<b>Writing style.</b> Was the applicant’s writing style persuasive and captivating? Not boring or dull?		10	
<b>Writing quality.</b> Was the applicant’s grammar, syntax, flow, etc. good? Did they avoid making errors?		10	
<b>FINAL NOTES: Explain any areas of for improvement. (No specific score attached to this).</b>		<b>No points given for final notes</b>	<b>Sum of all #s above:</b> _____

**Overall score (scale 1-10, divide final # above by 10): \_\_\_\_**

**\*How to interpret your score:**

9-10 = Great job!

7-9 = Almost there

5-7 = Needs some more work, you’ve got this!

Less than 5 = Time to take another stab at this