

## **PERSONAL STATEMENT IDEA STARTERS**

- Below is a list of questions to get you started thinking about what you might want to write about. This list is by no means supposed to be exhaustive, so *please* do not feel constrained by this list.
  - What is your gender?
  - What is your ethnic background?
  - What is your nationality?
  - Where were you born?
  - Where did you live the majority of the time when you were growing up?
  - What is your current marital status?
  - If you are married, what does your spouse do?
  - Do you have any children?
  - What is your current age?
  - What is your religious preference?
  - To what extent do you consider yourself to be a spiritual person?
  - When it comes to politics, how do you usually think of yourself?
  - Where did you attend high school?
  - At what age did you first seriously think about attending law school?
  - What has your work experience entailed?
  - Are you financially responsible for people other than yourself?
  - What volunteer work have you engaged in?
  - Have you engaged in any military service?
  - What was your family situation before you reached age 18?
  - What is the highest level of education your father completed?
  - What was your father's occupation?
  - What is the highest level of education your mother completed?
  - What was your mother's occupation?
  - What was your grandparents' highest level of education completed?
  - What were your grandparents' occupations?
  - When you were growing up, was a language other than English spoken in your household?
  - Thinking about when you were growing up, compared with American families in general, what was your family income?
  - While growing up, how often were there problems with muggings, burglaries, assaults, or anything else in your neighborhood?
  - While growing up, was there a strong sense of community in your neighborhood?
  - How many siblings do you have?
  - What do your siblings do?
  - How close are you to your family?
  - Have you ever experienced a serious medical condition?
  - Has anyone in your family ever experienced a serious medical condition?
  - Have any of your immediate family or close friends passed away?
  - What kind of travel have you experienced either nationally or internationally?
  - Have you ever lived in a foreign culture?
  - Do you speak any foreign languages?
  - What are your hobbies?
  - Do you collect anything?
  - What do you do with your spare time?
  - What kind of music do you like to listen to?
  - How often do you read and what kind of books do you like to read?
  - What is your favorite movie or television show?
  - What sports or athletic events do you actively participate in?
  - If a close friend or family member had to describe you in three words what would they say?
  - What was the most frightening event in your life?
  - What was the most embarrassing event in your life?
  - What was the most humbling event in your life?
  - What has been the most difficult experience of your life?
  - What three people have influenced you most in your life?
  - What is your greatest weakness?
  - What is your greatest strength?
  - What has been your greatest accomplishment?
  - What is your greatest regret?
  - If you had \$1,000,000 what would you do with it?
  - What is it about law school or being a lawyer that most attracts you?
  - What is it about law school or being a lawyer that most detracts you?
  - Do you personally know any lawyers; if yes, what do you think about them?
  - What experiences have you had with the law directly affecting your life?