

Domain 4 of 4

Overview

The LSAT Writing Sample is an unscored 35-minute essay that is sent to law schools along with your LSAT score. While it does not affect your score, law schools use it to assess your writing ability and to verify that your writing style is consistent with your personal statement.

The prompt presents a decision scenario with two options and asks you to argue for one choice. There is no "correct" answer — law schools evaluate how well you construct and support your argument.

Essay Structure

- Introduction (2-3 sentences): state which option you are choosing and briefly why
- Body Paragraph 1: explain how your chosen option satisfies the first criterion
- Body Paragraph 2: explain how your chosen option satisfies the second criterion
- Body Paragraph 3 (optional): address the strongest objection to your choice and rebut it
- Conclusion (2-3 sentences): restate your choice and summarize your reasoning

■ **Exam Tip:** Choose the option that gives you more to write about, not necessarily the one you personally prefer. A well-argued case for either option will impress law schools more than a weak argument for the "better" choice.

Writing Quality Tips

- Use clear, direct language — avoid overly complex sentences that obscure your meaning
- Use specific details from the prompt to support your argument
- Acknowledge the strengths of the other option before explaining why your choice is better
- Avoid logical fallacies: don't claim your option is perfect or the other is worthless
- Proofread for grammar and spelling errors in the final 2-3 minutes

What Law Schools Look For

Law schools use the Writing Sample to assess whether your writing ability matches your personal statement and other application materials. A well-written sample can reinforce a strong application.

Red flags include: very short essays (under 200 words), essays that don't take a clear position, essays with numerous grammatical errors, or essays that ignore the criteria provided in the prompt.