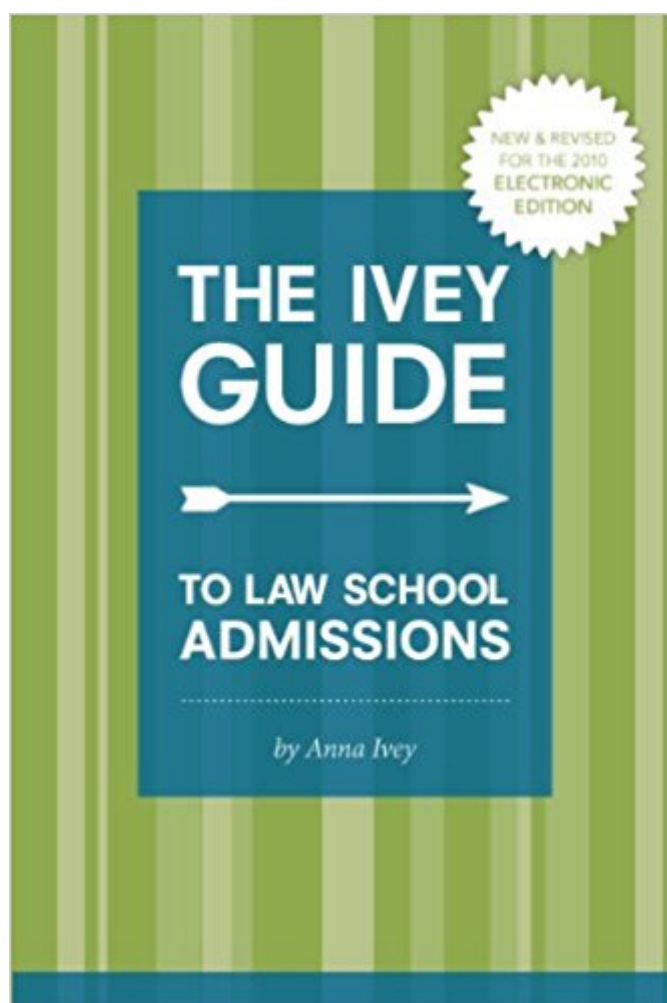




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The Ivey Guide To Law School Admissions: Straight Advice On Essays, Resumes, Interviews, And More (Updated And Revised)



Synopsis

Updated and revised for the 2010 electronic edition. As Dean of Admissions at the University of Chicago Law School, Anna Ivey decided the fate of thousands of law school applicants. In this book - the first of its kind by a former law school dean of admissions - she offers an insider's advice, giving straight answers to questions such as: * How much do the LSAT, ethnicity, and age really matter? * How should I write my essay to set myself apart? * Should I include a letter explaining my low LSAT score, my D in chemistry, my attention deficit disorder, my time in rehab? * Is law school worth the debt I'll face when I graduate? Full of invaluable information, sample essays, rÃ©sumÃ©s, and recommendations, and anecdotes from real admissions decisions, The Ivey Guide to Law School Admissions is the bible for aspiring law students everywhere.

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Customer Reviews

This review is of the 2010 updated and revised version of the book. Many of the reviews are from 2005, meaning they're reflecting on a somewhat different product than the current one. I don't know

if Ivey read these reviews and changed her book accordingly, or if the changes just coincidentally lined up, but many concerns mentioned by previous reviewers (the Wow Factor chapter, not acknowledging the importance of LSAT and GPA, etc) have been addressed and do not appear in this edition. I've read both this book and the Law School Admissions Game (will be reading Montauk's book soon), and while I agree with others that they're not absolutely necessary, they're all very helpful and having multiple perspectives has been great. I feel like I learn a little something different from each one of them, and reading both books, along with perusing law school discussion forums and reading Don't Go to Law School (Unless) have all helped really flesh out my idea of what the law school world looks like. I recommend this book as part of developing that deeper impression. Fair warning: There are sections of this book that are very personalized to specific situations; situations which didn't apply to me at all (basically all of the addendum scenarios). So I ended up skipping pretty much a whole chapter. That said, for me the rest of the book well made up for it, and if you're one of the many people whose experiences would fall under the addendum recommendations, those sections will probably come in extremely handy. One of the areas I was most surprised to gain from was Ivey's advice on making a law school specific resume. I literally had this book open in one window and my resume open in another, and I flipped back and forth between the two fixing my resume according to her advice. I'd read a paragraph, make a change, read another, fix something else, and so on for about an hour. The finished product is much better than the one I started with (and considering the original had already been through about five drafts and read over by my school's Career Services office, that's saying something). Considering the high cost of law school, the scholarships on the line, and the extreme differences in employment outcomes based on which school you get into, this book is a good investment. I wouldn't go so far as to call it necessary, but it's certainly recommended.

This is a good overview of all the "soft factors" in one's application. It reminded me of Strunk and White's Elements of Style because Ivey structures most chapters as outlines, giving tips in concise, candid prose and illustrating her points with examples (often in "before and after" or "good vs. bad" format). Even though much of her advice could be found in various places online for free, this readable and to-the-point style makes the book worth buying. I'd give the text of the book 4/5 stars. However, I was less impressed with the book as a material product. The binding is cheap and the typography poor. Worst are the sidebars — not really on the sides because it's a small paperback, instead inserted into the main text — which are small, blurry, dark gray text on a dark gray background. These are very difficult to read, and I'm not sure whether to

blame a printing error or the publisher's editors and typesetters. I wonder if perhaps they were meant to be in color, and carelessly converted to an illegible grayscale. Also, the drop caps appear pixelated. 2/5 stars. Overall then, I'm happy to have Ivey's advice, but I wish I had bought the Kindle version instead of this shoddy paperback. If you have an ereader, definitely consider the Kindle edition.

This book is incredibly helpful in answering most of your law school application questions. If you are not someone with an outstanding LSAT score and GPA, Ivey offers straightforward advice on how to set yourself apart from the rest of the pack. And if you do have strong numbers, she explains how to polish off the rest of your application to make sure you don't give any law schools a reason to not let you in. She does not sugar coat it either. This is a necessary reality check that should be included on every law school applicant's book list.

This book is fine; I would probably recommend buying it in its print version as opposed to the ebook version. Given that I have never seen the print version, I am guessing that there were some formatting errors incurred in the transfer process. Only other issue, which may be significant depending on your situation, is that the author sometimes goes into too much detail on subjects that could be more concise, and gives too little detail for subjects that I found important, such as addenda (Keep in mind that this was a personal issue for me, and if you are not needing to write addenda for your apps, this may not be a problem in the content for you.).

This book is an invaluable tool for every person applying to law school. I was accepted into 12 of the top 15 law schools. I had a great LSAT score and previous work experience, but honestly it was this book that gave me the confidence to apply to top 10 schools in the first place. This book examines every aspect of the law school admissions process and gives the reader the confidence to approach top law schools. With this book, I went from a mediocre personal statement awash in platitudes to having a personal statement that gave law school admissions officers a glimpse into the type of individual I really am. I received several handwritten notes on my acceptance letters saying what a great personal statement I had, and it was all thanks to this book. I cannot recommend this book more strongly. I gave away my own copy years ago and have recommended this book to friends, co-workers, and anyone else who asks.

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