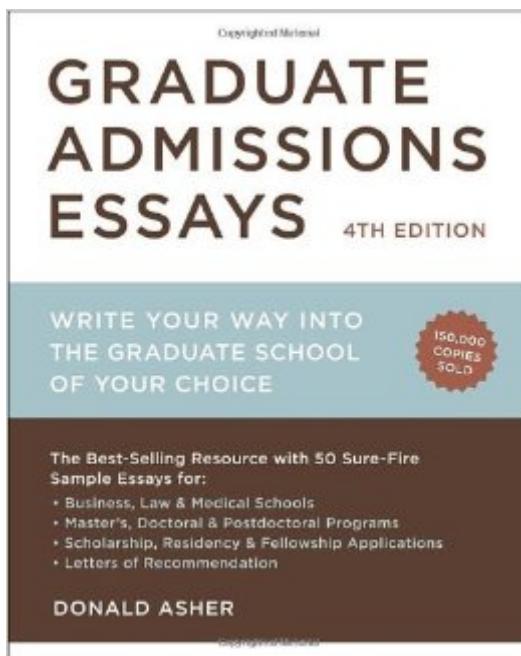


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# Graduate Admissions Essays, Fourth Edition: Write Your Way Into The Graduate School Of Your Choice



## **Synopsis**

The fully updated fourth edition of the go-to guide for crafting winning essays for any type of graduate program or scholarship, including PhD, master's, MBA, MD, JD, postdocs, DDS, DVM, Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright--you name it. Based on thousands of interviews with successful grad students and graduate admissions officers, Graduate Admissions Essays deconstructs and demystifies the ever-challenging and seemingly more impersonal application process for getting into graduate and scholarship programs. The book presents 50 sample essays in a comprehensive range of subjects, detailed strategies that have proven successful for some of the most notoriously competitive graduate programs in the country, as well as sample letters of recommendation, essays for residencies and fellowships, and postgrad applications.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book does cover all the basics, definitely well-organized and thorough. Personally, I found the essay examples to be pretentious and laughable. But, at least I got a lot of entertainment reading them. However, I do recommend it for providing all the basic information, especially the guidance on recommendations. I'm changing careers in mid-life, and this book is clearly aimed at "newly minted" undergraduates, which is why I thought the sample essays were not that helpful. I followed my heart and I got into the #1 school in my field. There are some good free blogs on writing personal statements on the web, so you might want to check those out, too.

I bought this book looking for some guidance. This book provides ideas to help you, it will not write the essay for you or tell you exactly what to write, it will help you. It helped me. By most standard measures, there is no way I should have had a chance at a top school, nevertheless, the number 1 ranked school for what I want to study. With a 2.3 undergrad GPA (albeit a 3.9 grad gpa in a masters program) and average GRE scores, admission to a top school was a long shot. However, I got a call from a professor at the top school in the country for what I want and she told me candidly that my essay was what caught their attention. The book helped, but it is NOT to be followed to the tee, You still need to put your own thoughts and ideas into your essays. The book helped me in a few ways. First, it provided exercises to help brainstorm topics to write about. Second, and most important, I followed the advice of mention specific faculty members in my essays. DO THIS. When I talked to faculty members that liked my essay, they said that they liked how I mention specific faculty at their schools. In short, there were some things that I found to be great, but be choosy, as the author says, not everything in the book applies to all areas of study. Good luck. I just had a school buy me a plane ticket and hotel room to come visit for an interview.

This book is chock full of current, practical information for applying to graduate schools. It guides you step-by-step through writing a high-quality admissions essay, that you can then tailor to the different schools you're applying to. The constructive tips helped me write an essay that was unique in a good way, and highlighted all the reasons I wanted to get a higher degree in the first place. It has information that is useful for both master's and PhD applicants, which was a refreshing change from guides that seem to primarily focus on PhD applicants and include master's degrees as an afterthought. This was the most useful guide I purchased when I was applying to graduate school.

As a student applying for graduate school I seek every avenue to improve my chances. I'm not the strongest student so I knew that my essays would be critical for becoming a strong competitor. This book is very well written and has advice I've found helpful in preparing for grad school. Dr. Asher seems to have experience in the field and gives great examples. I wouldn't feel as comfortable about my personal statements if not for this book. I'm giving it 5 stars for 5 reasons

- 1) Well Written (actually entertaining to read!)
- 2) Great Information on all things admission and Grad school
- 3) Lots of great examples for a variety of students (not just science)
- 4) Great reference for words that admission boards orgasm to
- 5) Helps to organize your admission progress and timeline

This book came highly recommended to me and because I took my application seriously, I wanted to maximize my chances for graduate school. In the introduction, Asher makes a case that previous versions included essays from students who are not the norm and are comparably way above average. I would argue that nothing has really changed--the students in here are highly exceptional and have experience beyond what the average grad school applicant brings to the table. I find the chapters about self discovery and writing about who you are somewhat helpful, but for the most part I think this book lacks the right message. If you cannot sell yourself in your application without this book, then you are not prepared for graduate studies. I would largely argue that the most successful applicants tailor their applications to the graduate school of their choice, seek out help from professors and advisors, and generally are motivated to succeed which is evident by their application in its entirety. Sometimes the simplest and well written essay is the best. You don't need a crazy hook or story to tell admissions committees why you want to attend their school. You just need to follow the prompt and have a clear idea for your future goals and where graduate education will take you. Additionally, I think this book is short sighted since it does not include many practical examples--most PhD programs that are research based want a goal statement. They do not care about your life story or what makes you a special snowflake. You need to be clear and concise. This book does not provide a lot of guidance on that. As a current PhD student, my advice would be to ask other graduate students and professors you know for help instead of spending money on this book. There are also tons of free resources on the internet.

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