

Appendix 1

Phase 1: Inventory

Purpose: The first step in determining your compatibility with a legal career is to have an honest conversation with yourself about your ideal job. To guide this conversation, I am assigning The Flower Exercise from “What Color is Your Parachute” (Bolles, 2003). If you take this exercise seriously, it may prove to be very useful in determining your compatibility with a legal career. You will be tempted to take short cuts, but remember, the decision to go to law school is a major one and there are no penalties for having an honest conversation with yourself now. In short, the more serious you take this, the more valuable it will be.

Directions: You will complete the exercise and submit specific pages for my review. If you find some information to be too personal, embarrassing, or sensitive and would prefer that I do not read it, I respect your position. I will simply ask for proof that you completed the exercise while respecting your right to privacy. I would rather you have a private, but honest, conversation with yourself than a disingenuous one to avoid embarrassment around me.

Next Steps: Once you have completed this exercise, we will move on to the “matching” exercise where you will research legal careers with an eye on the results of this exercise.

Appendix 2

Phase 2: Matching

Step 1: Type of Law: Using “24 Hours with 24 Lawyers” (Kim, 2011), class resources (lectures, readings, discussion posts), and outside resources (videos, testimonials, blogs) select a specific type of law (e.g.: criminal, environmental) that interests you. Determine how compatible this area of law is with:

- (1.1) The results of petal #2 (favorite interests),
- (1.2) The results of petal #4 (favorite values, purposes and goals).

Note: You must provide detailed information using data to advocate how your field of law is consistent with the results of petals #2 and #4. This will require a significant amount of research. Anticipated length: four pages.

Step 2: Legal Career: Now that you have identified the type of law you would like to practice, it is time to start thinking about what type of career best suits your interests. To do this, using the same resources listed in step #1 (and any other additional resources), find a legal career that matches:

- (2.1) The results from your favorite skills,
- (2.2) The results from petal #3 (my favorite people, environments),
- (2.3) The results from petal #5 (my favorite working conditions).

Whereas step 1 is asking you to think about **what** type of law you want to practice, this step is focused on **how** you want to practice law. Do you want to work in a law firm or solo? In the public or private sector? (There are too many options to list them all here, but this should give you a taste of what I am looking for). Again, you must advocate for this career using data. You must also discuss any disadvantages of working in your selected career. Anticipated length: five pages.

Step 3: Compatibility: Your ideal legal career is now set. All that is left is to determine how well your idealism matches the reality of the job market. In short, can you find a job that pays your living salary in a geographic area you want to live? To answer this:

- (3.1) Research the occupational outlook for (A.) legal careers in general, and (B.) for legal careers that best match your ideal legal career (as identified in steps #1 and #2 above),
- (3.2) Research the number of current job openings that best match your ideal legal career in your preferred geographic area,
 - (3.21) Provide a current list of job openings that match your ideal legal career in your preferred geographic area.
- (3.3) Discuss how well your ideal legal career in your ideal geographic area matches petal #6 (salary and level of responsibility). This will require some digging!

Note: You must use data to answer these questions. Anticipated length: five pages.

Appendix 3

Phase 3: Planning

Now that you know what type of legal career you want to pursue, it's now time to chase that vision. To accomplish this, complete the following steps:

Step 1: Law School Selection: Based on the results of Phases 1 and 2, list your top two law schools and provide an explanation of why those schools are your top two choices.

- (1.1) Research and list competitive GPA and LSAT scores for successful admission to both of your law schools based on recent admission statistics.
- (1.2) Provide a realistic cost estimate of earning a JD at each of your top two schools. You must include non-tuition costs (cost of living, books, etc.) as well as the price of tuition (assume no scholarships for this exercise). Most law schools provide this information, or you can calculate this yourself.
 - (1.2.1) Provide an estimated monthly repayment cost for loans totaling the amount calculated in 1.2.
- (1.3) Provide and respond to employment statistics for recent JD graduates from each of your top two schools. In particular, you must provide:
 - (1.3.1) The bar examination pass rate for recent JD graduates.
 - (1.3.2) The percentage of recent JD graduates working in long term, full-time, legal jobs requiring bar passage. Please include the types (e.g. solo practice) of long term, full-time, jobs graduates landed.
 - (1.3.3) The percentage of recent JD graduates who are unemployed.
 - (1.3.4) Salary statistics for recent JD graduates.
 - (1.3.5) Where (geographic location no larger than a state) recent JD graduates are employed.

Step 2: LSAT: Complete a full-length LSAT practice test under normal testing conditions (time, distractions). Describe how your score and current GPA match 1.1 above. You must provide a plan to improve any score (GPA and/or LSAT) that falls outside the estimates listed in 1.1. In other words, how (and by how much) will you increase your LSAT score and/or GPA?

Step 3: Calendar: Provide a calendar of dates that indicate the following:

- (3.1) LSAT registration date.
- (3.2) LSAT exam date (and next retake date, if needed).
- (3.3) Date(s) you will request letters of recommendation (including the names of letter writers) and transcripts.
- (3.4) Application due dates for each of your top two schools.

Step 4: Application: Research strategies for writing personal statements by providing a list of do's and don'ts when writing a personal statement.

- (4.1) Write your personal statement. This should be submitted in final form with serious attention given to the content, structure, and writing.