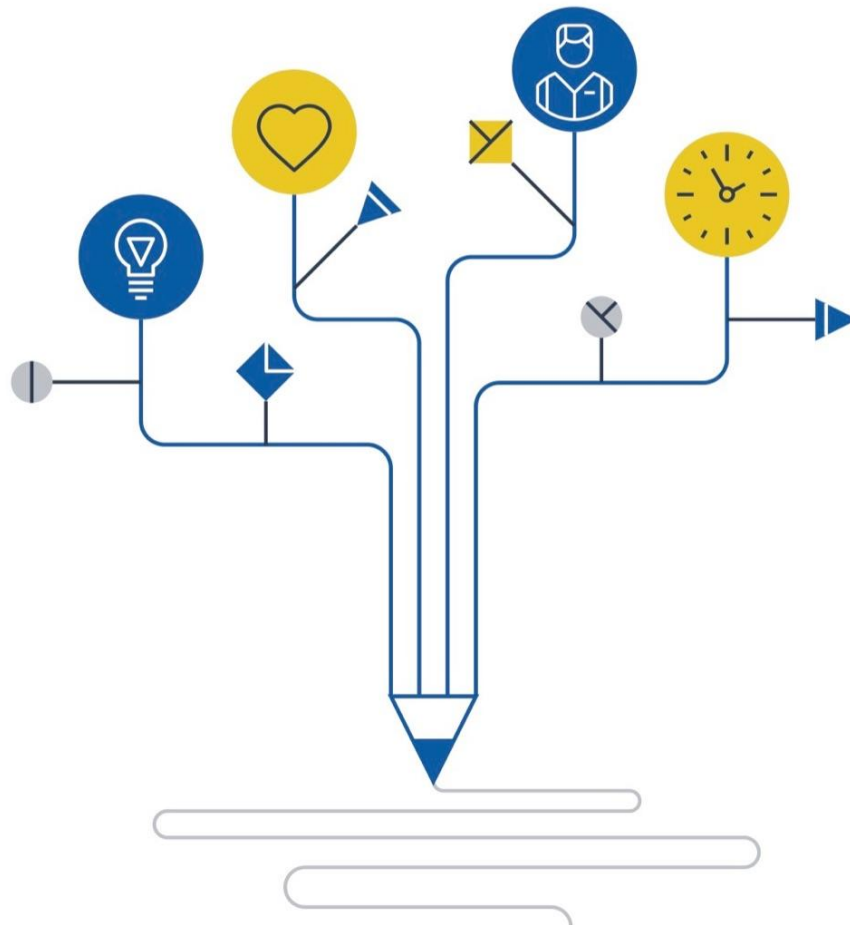




FROM EXAMPLE TO EXEMPLARY

How to Use Sample Essays to Make Your Essay Outstanding!



An Accepted Admissions Guide

From Example to Exemplary:

How to Use Sample Essays to Make Your Essay Outstanding

Contents

Introduction	3
But first, a word about why our clients love us and you should, too!	4
Step 1: Identifying the Ingredients of a Winning Essay	5
Step 2: Finding a Theme for Your Statement of Purpose	8
Step 3: Writing the MBA Goals Essay	10
Step 4: Let's Get Drafted!	12
Step 5: Revise and Polish Your Essays	14
Conclusion	16
Sample Essays	17
About the Author	21

Introduction

As you gear up to write your application essays, you may have looked at sample “winning” essays published in books or on websites, only to ask yourself afterward, “Sure, these are great, but what do these essays have to do with me?” This guide will show you how to plan for, draft, and edit outstanding essays. By the end of this guide, you will approach your writing with confidence, as you apply what you have learned to your task.

Ready to get started? Great! Let’s learn how to go from example to exemplary right now.

But first, a word about why our clients love us and you should, too!

We can't help it. Since we're asking you to invest your valuable time in reading this guide, you ought to know why we are qualified to give the advice in the first place. So here goes.

Applying to college or graduate school can be intimidating and stressful, but our expert admissions consultants ease that stress. They are here to listen, mentor, and guide you as you prepare an outstanding application that will get you accepted. No matter where you live, no matter where you are applying, you'll love us because you'll see from the first phone call or email that we care about you and your academic and career goals. We will support you as you strive to achieve your goals and dreams.

But don't take our word for it. See what our clients say about Accepted...

"I was admitted to Harvard! I definitely would not have been as successful without your help. Thank you for your advice and support – it was a pleasure working with you!"

"I got accepted to Stanford, and Wharton offered me a grant! You didn't just help me gain admission, but you increased my chances of getting offered a merit-based fellowship – talk about an unexpected ROI!"

"I just got accepted into Columbia University! I am so thankful to Marie for all the help she gave me. I wouldn't have been able to get into such a great school without her guidance. Because I am an international student, I didn't know very much about the application process, but Marie was dedicated to making me understand all I needed to succeed with my application. She was always ready to fully answer my questions, giving me the confidence I needed to pursue the challenging process of applying to American universities."

"I would like to thank Jennifer once again for her wonderful guidance without which my acceptances at Wharton and Booth would not have been possible!"

[Read more feedback on why our clients love Accepted.](#)

Step 1: Identifying the Ingredients of a Winning Essay

Let's jump right in and get started by looking at two sample essays to see what makes them so effective. The first essay, [The Public Health Student](#), opens with a question:

"What if people lived healthier lives, practiced preventive medicine, and took precautions against illness and disease?"

The "what if?" opening immediately engages the reader and at the same time tells us that the writer aspires to a career in the healthcare sector. We do not have to wait to discover the theme of the essay; it's right there in the first sentence.

[\[Click Here to Read the Full Essay\]](#)

Let's look at this great first paragraph: notice how every sentence builds on the sentence that precedes it, adding context for the applicant's decision to apply to a public health program. By the second sentence, she begins to present her background in the healthcare field, and by the third sentence, she explains why she now doubts that her initial, chosen field of physical therapy will be satisfying in the long-term. She demonstrates self-knowledge in this realization, self-knowledge that has come from her experiences thus far in the healthcare field. By the end of the paragraph, we clearly appreciate the applicant's motivations for wanting a career on the bigger, broader stage of public health, rather than as a PT. Her decision reflects a logical progression in her career and in her thinking.

As the essay continues, she continues to build her case for admission by linking her prior work and education to their relevance to the public health field. She writes about relevant coursework she has taken, followed immediately by a succinct discussion of her field work experience. She doesn't simply list what she did; she goes deeper, discussing what she learned and how these experiences and insights have solidified her commitment to earning the MPH degree.

Her conclusion is also very effective because she has returned to her opening "what if?" theme. Here she asks a new question: *"What if an aspirin a day could prevent heart attacks?"* emphasizing that everything she has learned and done so far keeps her riveted by the challenge of finding answers to significant questions in public health.

This essay works because the prose is clear and active. Every sentence offers something new or additional information; there is no fluff. She demonstrates mature self-knowledge, a logical career progression, and offers relevant, specific facts that add strength to her candidacy. This clarity and momentum keeps the pace moving, effectively building the writer's profile as a promising and serious MPH applicant.

Now let's take a look at the [Returning to School](#) essay from Accepted's law school section. This essay opens with a colorful, compelling scene that immediately places the reader in the story:

"Fourteen grumpy doctors stare across an enormous oak conference table at me. It is seven o'clock in the morning, and most of the group is still wearing wrinkled green scrubs indicating they worked through the night. None of the doctors look ready to digest the extremely technical information contained in the eight studies stacked neatly in front of them. My job is to present each study, review all relevant economic data, and answer any questions in such a way that the audience will conclude that the new drug I am selling is better than the one they have been prescribing. One of the physicians gruffly informs me, through a mouthful of Danish, that he is leaving in ten minutes so I had better start my pitch."

Don't you already feel for this writer and his formidable challenge? I don't know about you, but he had me hooked right away, and I was rooting for him to win over this very tough audience. That last sentence is also colorful and wonderful, really setting the tone for the essay and the writer's frustrations at the limitations of his role.

[\[Click Here to Read the Full Essay\]](#)

This four-paragraph essay really packs a punch. While only half of the length of the MPH essay, it still delivers the same winning elements, including specific highlights of career achievements (the writer was Rookie of the Year at his company) and clear and convincing reasons for a career change. He clearly explains his disappointment and fatigue: "My job became less challenging as I had to repeatedly remind the doctors of what I had already discussed with them."

As "one of the industry's top representatives," we can understand his quest for a higher-level intellectual challenge, and cites his work experience and science background that will transfer to a new career in medical law. He makes a convincing case that he is capable of achieving this goal. In the last sentence, he effectively refers back to the "grumpy physicians" we had already met, though with some softness, which keeps him from appearing arrogant. Both writers so far have brought their essays full circle.

Having read and analyzed these essays, you will now have a better grasp of the types of experiences that can build a case for your grad school candidacy. Start making a list of the experiences you have had that will create a compelling scene that will grab your readers' attention from the first sentence and not let it go until they have reached the final, satisfying conclusion.

Summary Tips:

- Open with a colorful anecdote or a question to engage the reader's interest from the first sentence.
- Hold the reader's interest by building on your narrative sentence by sentence, adding new information, building your case for admission, and showing self-reflection and insights.
- When you first begin to write, think of it as telling your story to a friend in person over coffee. This will help you get it down in your natural voice without worrying about having a "writer's" style. Once it's on paper, you can then begin to edit it into a substantive draft, editing for clarity, length, and impact.
- Refer back to your opening when you conclude your essay, bringing your story full circle.

TEAM UP WITH AN EXPERT

Step 2: Finding a Theme for Your Statement of Purpose

All effective essays have a distinctive theme. Referring back to the essays we read in Step 1, we might say that our MPH candidate's theme was her passion for finding answers to significant public health issues. Our law school applicant's theme was his yearning for greater intellectual challenges while remaining in the healthcare field.

It may take time and introspection to find your theme. The questions below are designed to help you define your essay's main message. Your answers will also help you express your goals, values as they relate to your career choice, motivations for pursuing a graduate degree, and professional dreams. While introspection isn't as popular an activity as, say, yoga or streaming TV and movies, it's an important part of this process. Give it some time; your essay will be much better for it.

- Why are you passionate about – or at least committed to – your career choice?
- Diving deeper into the question above, what experiences in your life (personal, educational, professional) have influenced your career goals the most?
- Has any individual played a major role in helping you discover these goals or values?
- What do you hope to achieve in your career?
- What would career success look like in five years? Ten years?
- What personal strengths (communication skills, empathy, persistence, etc) do you bring to this career?
- What professional skills (organizational, clinical, teaching, mentoring, etc) do you bring to this career?
- What experiences can you write about that will highlight these strengths?
- After the admissions committee has read your essays, what three words would you hope they would use to describe you? Would you like them to consider you “driven,” “intelligent,” and “creative?” How about “dedicated,” “a leader,” and “focused?” No matter what image you want to create, think about experiences that will illustrate those qualities.

Once you begin to think about these questions, some answers will come to you quickly, while others will require time to percolate. Write down your ideas, memories, and insights as they come. As they pile up, you will identify those experiences that were colorful or dramatic enough to become your essay introduction.

If you are writing multiple essays, such as for different MBA programs, each one must have its own theme. The admissions committee members want to see you as a multifaceted individual and have crafted their questions accordingly. These questions provide you the opportunity to display different aspects of yourself, your values, and your personality.

Summary Tips:

- Carve out some time for introspection about your career goals, values, and motivation. (Yes, that means your phone is in another room, or at least on “Do Not Disturb” mode.)
- Develop distinct themes for each essay required for any program requiring more than one essay. Use these opportunities to show yourself as a multifaceted individual.

**VIEW OUR GRADUATE ADMISSIONS
CONSULTING SERVICES**

Step 3: Writing the MBA Goals Essay

The MBA career goals essay—a close cousin to the graduate school statement of purpose—also demands a laser-like focus. Unlike personal statements that may discuss career goals but also allow for more flexibility in content, the MBA career goals essay has a specific and packed agenda. In fact, MBA career goals essay questions may contain several questions in one, so make sure to address each of them. For example, in 2022 Kellogg asked applicants in their one-year program, “Please discuss your post-MBA career goal, the current experience you will leverage to support the transition, and the Kellogg 1Y opportunities that will help you reach this goal.”

This question has three parts: the underlying question of why is the 1Y program appropriate for you; what do you want to do post-MBA; and what experience has so far prepared you to do it? What in the 1Y program will enable you to achieve that goal? Drill down to ensure you are answering all the questions-within-the question.

In addition to having a theme, your essay should also do the following:

1. Highlight specific career achievements. Choose among the most notable or defining experiences you have had either at work or through a community or extracurricular activity. These should showcase your leadership, creative thinking, collaborative abilities, and self-reflections.
2. Explain why your career goal makes sense in light of your experiences and influences so far.
3. Demonstrate why you are suited to a particular field as a result of your education, experience, abilities, and enthusiasm. Ideally, the material you choose to include will also allow you to demonstrate your knowledge about industry trends and point to how your particular abilities can help make a contribution to that field.

That is a very tall order.

Let’s see how this was achieved in a sample [MBA Goals Essay](#).

Based on the last two steps of this guide, you’ll easily recognize why the opening is attention-getting for all the right reasons. The writer introduces herself as the supremely busy executive she visualizes she will become in the future. She trades large amounts of stock, dashes to a Zoom conference, rushes down stairs, hails a taxi, then catches a plane.

In such a rush of activity, we can practically feel her heart pumping as she races toward her flight.

After establishing her theme in this opening, she offers context for her MBA goal. Notice that in writing about her work as an accountant for a major firm, she provides relevant details, including how many years she has been in this field, her bilingual abilities, and specialty area as an auditor. This is her springboard to explain why she is pursuing the MBA – she’s bursting out of her limited role as an accountant. Her eyes and ambition are set on a larger playing field as a money manager.

[\[Click Here to Read the Full Essay\]](#)

Outstanding career goals essays go beyond listing an applicant’s roles and achievements and convey real enthusiasm for their career choice. This writer’s enthusiastic, dreamy first paragraph achieved this, and she returned to that image at the end, where she painted her idealized (if frantically busy) future. She also proved her seriousness by registering for CFA examinations.

Many MBA essays will ask why you have chosen that program. Be prepared to answer this knowledgeably and enthusiastically. This will be easier if you have made in-person or virtual campus visits, attended student recruitment meetings, participated in forums, read student blogs or watched videos of students speaking about their experiences, communicated with current students or recent alumni, and otherwise done your homework. Make sure you have familiarized yourself with the courses and specializations that are relevant to your goals.

Summary Tips:

- Focus on answering each and every question asked in an MBA career goals essay; usually there is more than one.
- Write about your experiences vividly, so that your achievements and motivations are clear and compelling.
- Learn why the school is a good fit for you so you can write about it with genuine enthusiasm.

TEAM UP WITH AN EXPERT

Step 4: Let's Get Drafted!

You now have a clear sense of what makes an essay effective. You have reflected on the questions that helped you identify and develop your theme. Now it's time to start writing.

Before you begin, draft an outline, even if it's only a very informal list of the main points you want to cover. Based on the answers you jotted down to the questions from Step 2 of this guide, you should have a robust list of experiences, anecdotes, and ideas for possible inclusion in your essay. If you have more examples and ideas than you can use, so much the better. You can "spread the wealth" among different essay questions and for different schools. This will also keep the task of writing a fresher experience for you.

Now let's break the job down further to keep the task manageable. First, how long is your essay? Grad school application essays can range from as short as 250 words to more than 700. Ironically, it's much harder to write a very short, very good essay than it is to write a very good, longer one. Writing a super-short essay is like being six feet tall and stuck in a coach airline seat – you're going to feel cramped even when writing as economically as possible. You have little room to add the colorful context and details that can be so helpful. On the other hand, you must pare your story to its essence, and there is strength in that.

Assuming you have more leg room, so to speak, and have 700 words, you still have to divide that real estate among your introduction, the main body, and conclusion. Dividing your essay like this will help you gauge how much you can afford to write in each section. However, while keeping that in mind, do not worry too much about overwriting at first. Your first drafts can have a "relaxed" length, because it's important for you to write what you feel you want and need to say. As you edit, you will trim and pare down to the most essential material that fits, including only the most salient, compelling experiences, insights, and anecdotes.

It is hard to edit yourself, however. [Having an expert editor on hand to help you with the trimming can be a huge asset](#), saving you time, helping you make final content decisions that will work in your best interest.

In Steps 1 and 3 we admired some strong introductions. But don't get hung up on crafting the perfect introduction before moving on to the rest of the essay. Many people freeze up if they don't know how to start their essay. Then guess what happens? Nothing. Days go by and they still haven't begun. Here's a writing secret: *you don't have to start at the beginning*. Start with any section of the essay where you feel confident—start in the middle

where you know a story you want to tell, or start with a conclusion you have in mind. Often, the perfect introduction will come to you when you are well into writing the rest of the essay.

Finally, keep in mind the picture you want to paint of yourself to the admissions committee. What three adjectives do you want them to connect with you after they have read your application? As you read your draft, are those same adjectives (determined, focused, empathetic, clear-thinking, etc) shouting out at you? Stay focused on how best to paint the picture of that talented, purpose-driven individual through your own lively, meaningful examples.

And of course, never, ever simply *claim* to be something without backing it up with evidence.

Summary Tips:

- Make an outline, even if it's informal.
- Feel free to overwrite your first drafts—within reason. Capture on paper all the important experiences, ideas, insights you want to share. As you edit you will get to the essence of your message. Engaging a skilled editor to support you can be a wise investment.
- If you are stuck on the opening of the essay, skip it. Start wherever you feel confident about what you want to write. The introduction does not have to come first!
- Keep in mind the image you want the adcom to have of you when they finish reading. Does your narrative suggest that image to you?

**VIEW OUR GRADUATE ADMISSIONS
CONSULTING SERVICES**

Step 5: Revise and Polish Your Essays

You've got your first draft ready – this is a great milestone! Now it's time to revise and edit. Outstanding essays are not sprung into the world on the first draft. Here's how to edit and polish until your essay shines:

1. Let your essay rest for a day or two, particularly after an intensive writing session. You'll return to your writing with fresh eyes and undoubtedly see ways to strengthen it immediately. One of the most common problems plaguing application essays is bland, forgettable prose. As you look at your essay again, look for and root out generic writing, such as in the following sentence:

“Although I have been responsible for a lot of exciting projects, I want to move into management, which may not happen on my current path.”

What kind of projects? What made them exciting? Why wouldn't a management path be open to the writer? Has this been explained? Let's resuscitate this prose by adding appropriate **details**.

“My role as a product manager for a mid-sized giftware business has allowed me to develop my creativity as well as communication and market research skills. As exciting as it has been to have helped plan and release our innovative kitchen giftware, whose designs are based on famous Impressionist paintings, I want to move more into management, which seems unlikely at this family-owned and managed company.”

Adding details takes more room but it makes your essay come alive. It is so important, in fact, that it's better to write about fewer examples but flesh each out in greater detail than to write a laundry list of vague accomplishments or character traits you feel you possess. “Show, don't tell,” remains a cardinal rule in writing.

2. Ditch the passive voice – this will further enliven and tighten your writing.

“Negotiations over the extent of the website design were carried out by a team of managers and myself, representing the technical team.”

This passive construction is draggy. Move the “doer” of the action to the head of the sentence for a resulting sentence that makes you sound like a leader (and is five words shorter):

“I represented the technical team in negotiations with management over the extent of the website design.”

3. Read your essay aloud. When you listen to your essay, you’ll likely catch small mistakes that you inadvertently missed during the editing process and that you may also easily miss when reading silently. Reading aloud, you will also hear which sentences can benefit from some tightening, expanding, or other improvements.

4. Assess for overall quality control. Has your essay achieved the goal you set out for it? Do you sound like the irresistibly focused, thoughtful, and energetic individual you want to sound like? Make sure that the voice you created on the page resonates positively.

Summary Tips:

- Wait a day after writing a draft so you can return to it with a fresh perspective.
- Look for instances of bland writing or passive voice, then replace with more specific, active prose.
- Read your essay aloud so you can hear any weak spots, as well as hear the overall voice you have created. Does your essay meet your goals? If not, keep revising and enlist an experienced editor to help get you to the finish line.

TEAM UP WITH AN EXPERT

Conclusion

If you have read this whole guide, congratulations! You've taken an important step toward planning, drafting, and editing a successful application essay. Now it's time to move from general tips to personalized advice tailored just for you. Here's how it works:

1. [Explore our admissions consulting & editing services](#) and find the option that best suits your needs.
2. You will partner with an admissions expert who will work with you directly to help you discover your competitive advantage and use it to get accepted to your dream school.
3. Shoot us an email letting us know when you've been accepted. It makes our day!

Need help figuring out which service is best for you? [Click here for more guidance.](#)

GET ACCEPTED!

Sample Essays

Below are the three sample essays mentioned in the guide.

MPH Essay

What if people lived healthier lives, practiced preventive medicine, and took precautions against illness and disease? My days in the physical therapy department often made me think about the prevention of injuries as well as the injuries themselves. I was already doubting my future career choice as a physical therapist. Although I loved the science of it and helping people, the lack of variety within the field and its limited options for growth bothered me. I needed a career that helped a large number of people, emphasized prevention and primary care rather than tertiary care, and would continually challenge and motivate me to improve. Knowing that I really did not want to pursue physical therapy as I had originally planned, my thoughts wandered to the area of public health, particularly health management.

My first true introduction to the public health arena came in a class offered through the Big U School of Public Health. As I listened to experts speak about contemporary health issues, I was intrigued. The world of "capitation," "rationing of care," and Medicaid fascinated me as I saw the range of problems that public health professionals were trying to solve in innovative ways. This one semester class provided me with a basic but thorough understanding of the issues faced in healthcare today. In the last two years I have continued to learn about public health both through coursework and work in the field.

Because field experience is such a valuable learning tool, I searched for a research assistant position that would allow me to view public health at a different level. I worked on a project at a county health clinic in Englewood, a low-income, minority community. The program attempted to increase treatment compliance rates for adolescents diagnosed with tuberculosis who must complete a six-month medical program. Working for the county exposed me to a different side of healthcare than I had previously seen. Service and organization were not assets of the county and yet its role in the public health "ecosystem" was and is critical. Its job of immunizing thousands and interacting with all members of the community is often forgotten, but is important for keeping an entire community healthy.

My work at the county health clinic as well as my knowledge of some areas of public

health led me to accept an internship in Washington D.C. this past summer. The internship provided me with a greater understanding of a federal public health agency's operations and allowed me to contribute in a variety of ways to the XYZ Department in which I worked. Most importantly I worked on "policy issues" which involved identifying and summarizing problems that were out of the ordinary as well as documenting resolved issues in order to establish protocols to increase the department's efficiency. In addition I served on a scientific review panel which was responsible for editing a seventy-page proposed regulation before its submission.

Along with my duties at XYZ, I attended seminars and met with public health leaders at different functions and events. All these activities confirmed my growing interest in preventive medicine, outcomes and effectiveness, and quality of care, particularly within the private/managed care sector. These are my strongest interests because I believe they are fundamental to our nation's health. We must achieve efficiency and access without sacrificing quality.

The University of _____ would help me achieve my goals of furthering my public health education through the specialized coursework offered as part of its health administration program. [The client provides specifics here about the program's specific appeal and strengths]

Since rejecting physical therapy as a career possibility my interest in public health has only grown. I welcome the challenge of serving a large community and participating in such a dynamic and challenging field. What if an aspirin a day could prevent heart attacks? What if abandoning unnecessary procedures saved thousands of dollars, which then allowed a hospital to treat other patients needing care? What if every person was guaranteed care and that care was good? I would like to find answers for these questions during my career as a public health graduate student and professional.

Returning to School

Fourteen grumpy doctors stare across an enormous oak conference table at me. It is seven o'clock in the morning, and most of the group are still wearing wrinkled green scrubs indicating they worked through the night. None of the doctors looks ready to digest the extremely technical information contained in the eight studies stacked neatly in front of them. My job is to present each study, review all relevant economic data, and answer any questions in such a way that the audience will conclude the new drug I am selling is better than the one they have been prescribing. One of the physicians gruffly informs me, through a mouthful of Danish, that he is leaving in ten minutes so I had better start my pitch.

During my two years as a representative for Miracle Pharmaceuticals, I have found myself in this unenviable position hundreds of times. To overcome the often negative attitudes of my audience, I learned to clearly state my position and support it with persuasive evidence, usually gathered from extensive research in the scientific literature. I also learned to ask probing questions and analyze the answers on the spot. Although I was one of the only inexperienced representatives Miracle ever hired, I was named their Rookie of the Year, the highest possible award for a first-year employee.

I originally took this position because I thought it would be intellectually stimulating and take advantage of my scientific and business background. For the first year, I was right--it did. However, in an industry where new products are developed infrequently, I soon exhausted the issues to debate with my physicians. My job became less challenging as I had to repeatedly remind the doctors of what I had already discussed with them. Now that I have become one of the industry's top representatives, I am looking for a new, more-lasting intellectual challenge.

My goal currently is a career in medical law. I feel that my successful work experience and rigorous scientific training will allow me to debate with the best attorneys. Since medical technology and the law in this area are developing rapidly, I am also confident that this field will be constantly challenging. Although I will miss my grumpy physicians, I look forward to the time when, groggy from a late night at the law library, I will stare at my professor across a crowded lecture hall.

MBA Goals Essay

8:00 AM. July 1, 2030. The 23rd floor of the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong. A woman sitting behind the mahogany desk calls a Shanghai trader to buy 200,000 shares of Alibaba stock. Moments later, she dashes into a Zoom conference with Tokyo analysts. When the conference finally concludes two hours later, the woman rushes down the stairs, hails a taxi to the Hong Kong International Airport, catches a flight to Thailand, and ends her day with a meeting with the CFO of Asus Computers.

I look forward to maintaining this busy schedule as a portfolio manager of an international equity fund about ten years after obtaining my MBA. The Top School academic experience can build on my public accounting training and my multicultural and multilingual background to prepare me for work first as an equity analyst in the mutual fund industry and ultimately as a portfolio manager specializing in Asian Pacific equities.

As a CPA and staff accountant with Big 4 for the past two and a half years, I have developed a solid foundation in teamwork, analytical, and problem-solving skills. As a bilingual associate of the Asia-Pacific Business Group, I specialize in auditing the financial statements of in-bound Asian businesses. However, while Big 4 provides expansive career opportunities in public accounting, I have reached a plateau in developing the analytical and management skills necessary to achieve my ultimate career goal of money management. In public accounting, we measure and examine financial transactions of the past. In contrast, money managers examine the current attributes of securities and attempt to predict their future performance to maximize return for investors. I crave that forward focus and challenge.

Furthermore, an effective manager in the 21st century must be well-versed in international business transactions. Although I have utilized my Chinese language skills in servicing our Asian clients and engaged in comparative technical analysis of U.S. GAAP and French, Taiwanese, and Japanese financial reporting requirements, my exposure to and knowledge of broader transactional issues such as international transfer pricing has been limited. Finally, as our audits focus mainly on the clients' compliance with U.S. GAAP and foreign accounting and reporting requirements, they provide deep dives and narrow windows; I want to learn about the "big picture" of international business.

A background in financial reporting and servicing Asia-Pacific business clients. The ability to converse fluently in Chinese. An understanding of Chinese, Japanese, and

American cultures. I will bring these qualities to the Top School program and ultimately to my career in international investment management. As a first step toward achieving my career goals, I have registered to take level one of the CFA examination in June 202X and plan to complete the entire examination series upon graduation from Top Ten. Armed with the CFA certification and Top School's international bent, strength in finance and management training, I will be ready to place that call to the trader in China, conduct the videoconference with Tokyo, and visit the CFO in Thailand.

For information on how Accepted can help you, please see our [MBA admissions consulting and application services](#).

About the Author

Judy Gruen is an admissions expert and former Accepted admissions consultant. Judy holds a Master's in Journalism from Northwestern University. She is the co-author of Accepted's first full-length book, *MBA Admission for Smarties: The No-Nonsense Guide to Acceptance at Top Business Schools* and other books.

**VIEW OUR GRADUATE ADMISSIONS
CONSULTING SERVICES**