

Law School Essay POL2 – Scheiner

In my time at UC Davis, I have found that a *huge* percentage of the undergrads that I teach end up applying to law school. I have no problem with people going to law school or becoming lawyers. However, I am concerned that too many students are choosing law school because it is a straightforward application process, and does not require you to consider more thoroughly what you might wish to do in your life.

In this essay, I ask you to consider this issue more carefully. Below, I provide the links to four bits of commentary on law school. The first raises issues of cost and employability. The second speaks ill of law school. The third is much more balanced. The fourth is an email from a former student of mine, commenting on his displeasure with law school. Please read the information available at these links, and then write a one-page (single-spaced) essay in response to the questions below. Please do not spend more than three hours on this assignment.

Websites:

Economics of Law School: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/25/opinion/too-many-law-students-too-few-legal-jobs.html?_r=0

Negative discussion: <http://lawandletters.blogspot.com/2007/11/why-you-shouldnt-go-to-law-school.html>

More balanced discussion: <http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/courses/BalancedLawSchoolPost.pdf>

Email from former student: <http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/courses/Lawschoolletterfromformerstudentofmine.pdf>

The questions: Address *EITHER* 1) *OR* 2) below.

- 1) If you plan to apply/go to law school, why do you wish to? What would you say to the authors of these websites to convince them that law school is the right path for you? (Be sure to cite specific arguments made by the above readings and respond to them.)
- 2) If you do not plan to apply/go to law school, why not? What path will best help you achieve your current career/life aims?

Deadline: due at Smartsite (at the “Law School Essay” prompt under the “Assignments” tab) by 1pm on the day of Lecture #4 (1/14).

- You may turn the paper in late if your TA approves an extension by end of Lecture #3 or if you have documentation (e.g., doctor’s note).
- Any late paper that has not been given an extension or has no documentation will lose 10 percentage points per day. (Note that we will not prorate points off. 1 second late is equal to 1 day late.)

Format:

- 1 page (at most), single-spaced, Time New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins
- At the top of the page, please list the following information in order:
 - Your name & ID#
 - “POL2 (Scheiner) – [Your TA’s name & Section #]”
 - “Law School Essay – [Date you turned it in]”
- Be sure to proofread your work carefully. You will lose points for sloppy work.