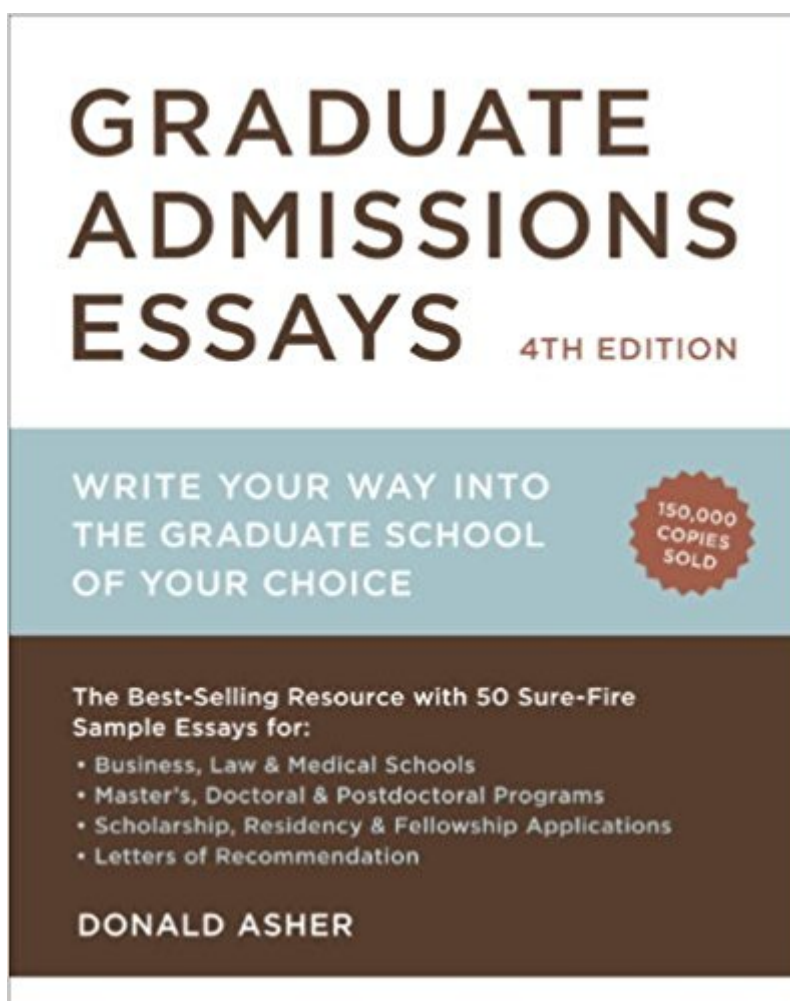


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# Graduate Admissions Essays, Fourth Edition: Write Your Way Into The Graduate School Of Your Choice



## 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.

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## Customer Reviews

I would definitely recommend this book! This book was great for several reasons...First, it gives you a LOT of context. You get a better picture about who is reading your essay, what they are looking

for, what the purpose of the essay is, and a better understanding of the application process in general. Obviously, you will need to pick and choose what applies to your field/program because certain things won't necessarily apply (which the author mentions). There is a lot of input from admissions committee members about what they do and don't like reading, which I thought was particularly helpful. The writing exercises are excellent because they are less daunting than trying to write the essay all at once, and once you complete these short prompts, you will find the scaffolding of your essay is already there for you. There were also a lot of helpful suggestions for the revision process. I would not waste time reading tons of the sample essays. I would find a couple that are in your field of study (or something similar) and look over how they were structured and to get ideas for style. If you are in a crunch though, just read chapters 4-7. The author does a great job helping you draw on your entire life experience to help you supplement your essay and make you stand out as a genuine and interesting person. I was really worried about my application being unimpressive. Never underestimate the power of a great essay! So far I have heard back from 5 of my schools and have been offered 5 interviews! I really think I owe a lot of that to this book and having an essay that stood out.

I taught a workshop on purpose statements for grad school applications to those entering their final year of undergrad through the McNair Scholars Program, and this book was vital to the success of my workshop. I really wish I had known about this book when I was writing own grad school applications. The book explains things clearly to help understand what is effective, but also why it is so. But the biggest strength of this book is the many samples of essays for many types of graduate level academic programs. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who is even considering applying to grad school. It will be your greatest resource!

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.

This book is fine for first-time applicants. It provides very useful guidance such as communicating

with professors, recommendation letters. However, for the essay part, it is a little misleading for PhD applicants! PhD program is research oriented. Just elaborate what research projects you have done and what direction you want to explore in the program would be great. A detailed description of your general research interests is critical. Plus why you choose this program and identify an advisor. The essay here is very Master program like. It is not for PhD.

I don't write reviews, but this is bar none the most well-designed and composed texts I've ever encountered on the grad admissions process. What gets me is things like the author going so far as to find you the exact IRS publication number you need to read up on the tax considerations of any fellowships or assistantships you might receive (as if you'd even thought about it). It's that detailed and considered. Every other book I've bought pales in comparison.

This book is the best book out there for graduate admissions essays and the overall process of grad school admissions. I've been through the admissions process before (successfully) so I can vouch for the strategies Asher advocates for. What is also great about this book is that there are a TON of sample essays, all from different perspectives. If you take a couple hours and read them, you'll get a lot of ideas for your own essay. My only criticism about the book is that I wish there were more essays focused on the humanities. There are a couple, and I understand that Asher needed to share time with medical school, business school, law school, etc. It would be nice to have a book out there for humanities folks, but again, that wasn't Asher's motivation in writing this book. That aside, it is a great resource and a must buy.

The examples are all narrative. This doesn't seem to apply to a clinical psych program, but may be useful for your discipline. Also, these applicants are all basically Mother Teresa, or leader of the free world, etc. The writing process suggested is not all that useful, but you'll get some good ideas to consider. There is a readily accessible study on personal statement kisses of death that may be more useful... web search for it. Need more advice how to explain my deficiencies! No help there.

I highly suggest this book. It is very well written and truly guides prospective graduate students in the application process. The suggestions that Mr. Asher puts forward are applicable, realistic, as well as straightforward. Lastly, the final chapter of this guide is entirely dedicated to providing samples from former successful applicants; this section comes after three chapters preparing the reader to write the best personal statement, offering a diverse range of examples as to how to put

ones story on paper. Highly recommend this book.

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