General Advice

- Take the test in June, especially if you are still in undergrad. That way, you'll still be in the mindset of studying and doing academic work. Also, you won't have to try to schedule time to study for the test and your other courses as you might with the October test. Lastly, it'll give you plenty of time to retake the test without having to wait for the October or December test scores.
- Put the time in—acceptance to law school and many scholarships rely heavily on the LSAT and undergraduate GPA. If you spent four years building a GPA, it would make sense to put equally proportionate effort in preparing for the LSAT. (If your undergrad GPA isn't as high as you would like, a high LSAT score may be your chance to overcome this weakness.)
- Don't assume that an expensive commercial prep course is a requirement for doing well on the LSAT. If you have the self-discipline to study on your own, you can create your own individual prep plan for the LSAT.

General Suggestions for Preparation

- Start by learning about the test itself. Learn the structure, different sections, and the amount of time you will have.
- Take seriously the task of learning how to take the test. You cannot do your best without serious, deliberate preparation.
- Take as many full-length, timed practice tests as you can!
- Take every practice test you can, several times a week until the test. Hopefully your score will improve from the time you begin studying (WELL IN ADVANCE) to the time you take the test.
- Take results of practice tests (especially self-administered ones) with a grain of salt. Don't assume you're prepared enough just because you have a great practice test—do it consistently.
- Take a practice test at least twice when you are preparing—one before you begin, to know where you need the most help, and once in the middle, to track your progress so you don't continuously study the same things.
- Study in similar environments to how you will take the test. I usually studied with background noise, but the absence of noise on my first test ended up being detrimental. After that I only studied in silence in preparation for the second test.
- Make sure that every type of argument is understood. The logic questions are hard when you don't know what is being asked.
- Treat it like a game, or a puzzle to be solved—try to have fun with it!
- If you can, take upper-level Philosophy or English classes. The logic and writing will really help on all aspects of the LSAT.
- Practice arguments and games more than reading comprehension, as I found the most improvements to be in those sections.
- Don't let a low score on a practice test deflate you: use it as an opportunity to see specific problems you're having and spend your time correcting them.
- Don't get discouraged—improvement is a very slow process with the LSAT, but with continuous preparation, things begin to “click.”
- Practice, practice, practice!
Time Management

- Practicing for a relatively short amount of time on a regular basis always beats spending large amounts of time studying every month or so.
- Long tests are like marathons. It takes time to build stamina.
- Working smart is more important than working fast; the speed will come later.

Just Before the Exam

- Make sure you understand the policies for actually taking the exam. The second time I took the exam, they enforced the rule of not being able to wear anything with a hood, and I was freezing the whole time, which proved to be very distracting. Small things can end up being important, so pay attention.
- Make sure to take care of all administrative work well before the test date. Worrying about where to find the test site, what classroom the test is given in, or if your ticket is printed are all things that add unnecessary stress on test day.
- Go to bed early the night before. There is nothing quite as frustrating on a big exam as not being able to think clearly because you are tired.
- Relax the night before the exam: take a hot bath, watch a movie, leave the study guides behind, give your brain a break.

On the Day of the Exam

- Do a logic game the morning of the test—it really helps to wake up your brain and get your mind into thinking mode.
- Don't pay attention to the people next to you. They have a different exam than you. It doesn't matter how far others are in comparison to you. Pace yourself. How you are doing is the only thing that matters, not anyone else. (Also, if a friend is taking the LSAT, sitting next to him or her may prove even more distracting. At least, I know it was for me.)
- Read everything on the exam very carefully. Details are incredibly important.
- Bring a snack to the testing center (my test went through lunch).
- Be confident in your own preparation and don't get distracted during the test. There will always be that person tapping their pencil and the proctors moving about the room. It is important to stay focused on the task at hand and to not waste any time on distractions during the test.
- CALM DOWN. Life will go on after the LSAT. My first LSAT score reflected how nervous I was going into the exam. Take a deep breath before you go into the examining room and remind yourself that there are much more important things in life than the LSAT!