

Brenda Bernstein

Owner, The Essay Expert | Writing | Editing | Resumes | Cover Letters | College Essays | LinkedIn Profiles

brendab@theessayexpert.com

Summary

About Brenda Bernstein

With ten years' experience coaching individuals and companies on their writing projects, Brenda Bernstein and her company, The Essay Expert, have a proven track record of success with job seekers and college applicants.

Brenda holds an English degree from Yale, and a law degree from NYU, and is a trained life coach. She uses her talents to help people to start -- and finish -- their writing projects.

If you have a writing project that's not getting done or not working as well as you want it to, whether it is an application essay, resume, LinkedIn profile or other business or personal project, contact Brenda for help.

About The Essay Expert

Our talented team of Ivy-educated consultants is available to meet your writing and editing needs: resumes and cover letters, college essays, LinkedIn profiles, job and scholarship applications, and more.

Resumes and Cover Letters

Your resume and cover letter are your first opportunity to impress a potential employer, and you have 15 seconds to do it. We will make sure you stand out from the competition. Specializing in Legal Resumes.

LinkedIn Profile Reviews \$75

Present yourself professionally on LinkedIn. Increase your ability to attract business and jobs. Learn how to empower your profile and get your target audience to contact you.

LinkedIn Profile Building

Companies: Present a unified image that impresses clients and sells your product.

Job Seekers: Write effective and impressive content and maximize LinkedIn's tools to power up your job search.

College Essays

The admissions essay is one of the most crucial parts of the college application. We help students write essays that provide the best possible chance of acceptance into the school of their choice.

Clients report unprecedented results from working with The Essay Expert. Contact BrendaB@TheEssayExpert.com to find out how your written product can get you the results that you want.

Specialties

Resumes, Cover Letters, Bios, LinkedIn Profile Reviews, LinkedIn Profile Building, College Essays, College Admissions, College Applications, Job Applications, Scholarship Applications; Streamlining and focusing any piece of writing; Writing Coaching and Life Coaching.

Experience

J.D. Career Advisor, Legal Resume Specialist at University of Wisconsin Law School - Career Services

June 2009 - Present (1 year 2 months)

- # Advise UW law students on their legal job search activities.
- # Edit personal statements, resumes and cover letters
- # Develop and present resume workshop for law students
- 4 recommendations available upon request*

Owner and Senior Consultant at The Essay Expert

March 2009 - Present (1 year 5 months)

Founded writing and editing services company. Produced website for company; built team of qualified writing experts. The company offers the following services:

- # College admissions essay advising
- # Resume and cover letter writing and editing
- # LinkedIn profile writing and editing
- # Scholarship and fellowship application coaching

The Essay Expert... for writing that gets results.

34 recommendations available upon request

Law School Admissions Consultant at Kaplan, Inc.

1999 - Present (11 years)

- # Assist approximately 30 law school applicants per season with all aspects of the law school admissions process.
- # Engage with clients via telephone and email to focus, sharpen and individualize their application essays and resumes.
- # Succeeded in causing clients' admission to law schools across the country, including Harvard,

Yale, Columbia, NYU, Fordham, Georgetown, George Washington, University of Wisconsin, Northwestern, and University of Chicago.

3 recommendations available upon request

Assistant Program Manager at CAMBA Legal Services

July 2000 - September 2008 (8 years 3 months)

Supervised 4 attorneys and 3 paralegals in high volume tenant-side non-profit housing practice.

Supervisor at CAMBA Tenant Support Services

October 2005 - September 2007 (2 years)

Supervised 3 case managers in program for recipients of Section 8 federal housing subsidy.

Represented clients in housing court.

Compiled and published 60-page CAMBA Resource Guide which encompasses contact information for hundreds of social service providers in Brooklyn.

Education

New York University School of Law

J.D., 1995 - 1998

Activities and Societies: Review of Law and Social Change

Yale University

B.A., English, 1987 - 1991

Activities and Societies: Aurora Magazine, Yale Glee Club, Yale Hillel Soup Kitchen

Interests

Professional: College Applications, Resumes & Cover Letters, Job Search, LinkedIn, Writing Powerful Bios

Personal: Swimming, Dancing, Yoga, Singing, Food-Based Nutrition, Vegetable Gardening

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41 people have recommended Brenda

"I can wholeheartedly recommend Brenda Bernstein for resume, essay writing, and general counseling. Through her thorough command of the English language, she is able to concisely explain complex concepts to both novices (like myself) and renowned fellow experts alike. Most notably, her response time is excellent (to say the least). Never did I wait more than 24 hours to hear back from her; often, I heard back from her within the hour. (It goes without saying that a more conventional service would take at least two-three days for a similar response). In my case, she was able to take a rudimentary resume and transform it into the professional, presentable resume that I would ideally want. Most importantly, Brenda is a very open and easy person to speak with. In today's very competitive environment, it's easy for me to get defensive or anxious when evaluating myself (and works such as my resume and cover letter). However, Brenda's tactful, caring, open style allowed for me to improve my works in a objective, balanced, and optimistic manner. Considering people with her level of professional expertise and emotional intelligence are often reserved for the very politically or financially privileged, I believe anyone who's looking for either general improvements or the "extra edge", in their resumes, cover letters, or admissions essays would do well speaking to Brenda Bernstein."

— **Joe Klunder**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda was hugely instrumental in making my essays stand out. She worked with me to find my voice utilizing my experiences and history to make 2 great essays. She was honest, thoughtful, questioning and sincere. I'd highly recommend her for any writing work. She's the best!"

— **Marvin Webb**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda helped me with my resume and a bio for my company. She combines impeccable knowledge of her craft, an extremely high level of integrity, and personal attention that is full of wit and humor. Her commitment to perfection is the foundation for practical results that are professional and applicable. If you are shopping around for any of the services she offers, look no further!"

— **Frederick Weinstein**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda is fantastic! She is hands down the best admissions consultant I could have hoped for and

I highly recommend her to anyone applying to law school. Not only did I get into my first choice school, but I was offered a significant scholarship, and it was due to Brenda's assistance. When I began my consulting sessions, I had a concept for my essay but was unable to translate it on my own. Brenda was a tremendous help; I would go so far as to say that she read my mind. She was able to dig deep and help me transform all of my thoughts into a spectacular essay. She was direct and to the point as well as kind, professional, knowledgeable and dedicated to my success. Brenda is also very personable. I was instantaneously comfortable with her despite the fact that we were time zones apart. I was a bit apprehensive of working with a consultant over the phone, but within the first 15 minutes of our conversation I knew that working with Brenda was a great choice! The law school application process is a stressful one. I constantly found myself comparing myself to others and/or doubting myself. Brenda was incredibly supportive throughout the entire process. I would (and I will) recommend her to anyone going through the law school application process!"

— **Olivera Plamenac**, was Brenda's client

"I have worked with Brenda in multiple capacities and she has created success in each. In her role as The Essay Expert, Brenda recently presented a program on the use of LinkedIn to grow your legal practice to my LinkedIn group, Milwaukee Legal. It was thoughtful, well done and provided useful and practical information to members. Brenda has also given me direction for my own LinkedIn page which has been beneficial. We both work with law students at the University of Wisconsin and Brenda has a wealth of knowledge and experience which helps students create a platform for finding career success. As a personal friend, Brenda is smart, funny and very real world oriented. If you want help with your writing, career search or on-line persona contact her. She can help you create personal success."

— **Michael Moore**, *Founder, Moore's Law*, was with another company when working with Brenda at The Essay Expert

"The best aspect of working with Brenda is that she takes the time to listen to and think about her advisees' questions and concerns. Because she has such a deep and broad knowledge of all things career services, she sincerely reflects on the best course of action for her advisees, then relates that information in an extremely accessible manner. I recommend Brenda to anyone who wants a stellar resume, effective cover letters, top notch interviewing skills, and overall excellent advice concerning legal employment and the job search!"

— **Jason Foster**, was Brenda's client

"Kudos to Brenda and The Essay Expert -- recently, just two months after working with The Essay Expert to revise my resume, I was offered an excellent opportunity with Northwestern Mutual in the career I wanted. Best investment I ever made! Brenda is a talented business professional, writer, editor, and coach who exceeds expectations with her keen insight, advice and support. Working with her was a collaborative experience, but most importantly, after speaking with her, I felt

re-energized and motivated to take control of my career. She worked with me to produce a résumé that truly features and sells my attributes and core abilities. Brenda is fully aware of the needs of the current marketplace and she knows how to develop the right résumé for each individual. In this economy, you have to position yourself as an A Player amongst your competition. I was extremely pleased with her services. I highly recommend Brenda and The Essay Expert team for anyone who needs to make a great impression."

— **Danielle Langhus**, was Brenda's client

"After meeting with different recruiters and attending workshops on writing my resume, it turned out disjointed and longer than I wanted it to be. The Essay Expert team worked collaboratively with me to bring out my key attributes and skills powerfully and efficiently. I have gotten a great response from employers using my new resume -- I am so happy with the results!"

— **Lynne Scully**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda is true writing expert and advisor in the use of the English language. She provides a wide scope of valuable and helpful advice, tips and other assistance that help with writing any kind of text. Also, her e-book, LinkedIn Profile Tune-up, is clearly written and concentrated on key points. This book is great choice for anyone who wishes to have an improved and more effective LinkedIn profile."

— **Michal Kurka**, *Advisor / FM, Invest Live*, was with another company when working with Brenda at The Essay Expert

"If you want your LinkedIn profile to look better, Brenda will help you make it so! Her feedback is not only useful, but immediately actionable! I highly recommend her services for any LinkedIn profile analysis."

— **Chris Barbour**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda's work is absolutely stunning! I am thrilled beyond measure. Brenda is truly mighty of pen, and I also benefited greatly from her objective lens. My resume is gorgeous and my professional bio says more than I could have imagined in an extraordinarily short space, expressing both my history and my true passions. I will be contacting The Essay Expert in July to work on my graduate school applications. I can't imagine being in better hands. -Suzanne Young, Senior Investment Analyst, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney"

— **Suzanne Young**, was Brenda's client

"I had become too close to the forest to see the trees when it came to my resume. Brenda's edits were independent and fresh and retained the technical intent while increasing reader impact. She brought my resume from good to really excellent. Her concise, compelling style was especially effective in the first 5 bullets -- the most important to hold a reader's attention -- and I have been

receiving a response of 5 times the expected rate. It is a pleasure to work with Brenda, whose communication is straightforward and whose projects are delivered in a timely manner. I'd strongly recommend Brenda for any important personal or commercial marketing or branding requirement."

— **Richard R. Smolenski**, was Brenda's client

"I was fortunate and very satisfied to work with Brenda and her excellent professional staff as I re-tooled my resume and developed a series of personalized cover letters that focused on my career strengths. Brenda's team developed a refreshing and targeted approach to my resume and assisted me in writing cover letters that targeted the specific types of companies and market sectors I was interested. The results were measurable, and I am pleased to have found an excellent new position in my field that has opened new opportunities. I wholeheartedly recommend Brenda and her career writing services."

— **Randy Wilmot, AIA, LEED**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda is indeed an essay expert. She helped me to streamline my writing, clarify my examples, and arrive at essays that truly spoke of who I am and where I'm headed. She is professional, witty, and brings a sense of humor to the work that even makes it fun. Thank you, Brenda!"

— **Jeff Doff**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda was fantastic and helped me to condense my 7 page curriculum vitae into a great 1 page legal resume. She was creative in working my experiences into the resume and I was thrilled with the final product. She also helped me with numerous cover letters. With her help, I received four summer job offers. I would recommend Brenda to anyone and will absolutely use Brenda in the future."

— **Anne Readel**, was Brenda's client

"Many people are beginning to truly understand the strategic networking power of LinkedIn, but it's surprising how few have adopted good habits when constructing and maintaining their LinkedIn profiles. Personal branding and sending a concise message to people who visit your profile is critical. Brenda Bernstein's e-book holds key profile strategies and important tips on avoiding networking pitfalls. As a LinkedIn trainer myself, it's good to know I have a resource like this for my clients to help them after they've left my classroom. Trust in Brenda's experience and good instincts to get you on the path to a better LinkedIn profile. Buy her e-book!"

— **Michael Phelps**, *LinkedIn Trainer, Phelps Research Services, LLC*, was with another company when working with Brenda at The Essay Expert

"I recently hired The Essay Expert to help with a better presentation of my LinkedIn Profile. The quality of the service from Brenda was amazing. I was impressed with her quickness in creating my profile review and also with the communications we had to continue improving my profile. I would

without doubt recommend The Essay Expert's services and would actually encourage some people to work with Brenda to improve their LinkedIn profiles. Thanks Brenda!"

— **Jon Rivers (Microsoft Dynamics Channel Mgr)**, was Brenda's client

"The Essay Expert has been extraordinarily helpful to me. I am very dyslexic – I can write down some ideas but I can't quite put it all together. Brenda helps me organize and state my thoughts in an articulate way so I'm not the only one who can understand them. If you look at my website, you'll find that she has done most of the proofreading and re-writing for me. The Essay Expert is quick and efficient, and they clean up my writing so that it is a lot clearer and my main idea comes through. I highly recommend this service for any essay writing or website projects."

— **Michael Hayes, Owner, Buddha Body Yoga**, was Brenda's client

"I was extremely impressed by The Essay Expert's LinkedIn profile review service. I found the response time to be very quick, the quality of work to be excellent, and the creativity of the suggestions to be superb. I believe the value I received from the review significantly exceeds the amount that I paid for the service. You must try it!"

— **Mike Robar**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda helped me with my law school admissions applications and really made the application experience much less stressful. After staring at a blank page for weeks, one session with Brenda and I had a direction that led to a personal statement that expressed who I am and why I would be a good lawyer. I have gotten into many of my choice schools and received substantial scholarships to most - the best was a personal note in one of my acceptance letters saying how impressive my application was. I can not thank her enough!"

— **Lauren Matti**, was Brenda's client

"Ms. Bernstein is a skilled editor whose expertise facilitated my acceptance into the Wisconsin EBMA program. Brenda was most helpful in organizing my thoughts, ensuring I comprehensively answered the essays and helping me write about sensitive topics in a positive way. I also came away with a few writing tips and tricks I hadn't been exposed to in the past. Her revisions were consistently sent back to me quickly and in a format that was very easy for me to work with. I recommend Brenda Bernstein highly for professional writing projects."

— **Maitri Meyer**, was Brenda's client

"I was offered two jobs within two weeks of handing in my resume, cover letter, and writing sample, all of which Brenda helped me with. Brenda is knowledgeable, helpful, and patient, and coached me through multiple drafts until I felt comfortable with my work. There is no comparison between my first drafts and the documents that got me my jobs! As a 1L in a tough job market, I'm very grateful

for Brenda's help, and I recommend her for any resume or writing questions you may have."

— **Shannon Buttchen**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda is one of Kaplan's primary go-to law admissions consultants and she consistently receives glowing feedback from her clients. Brenda has contributed to a host of successful admissions webinars, including providing a brilliant "before" and "after" sample essay from one of her clients admitted to Fordham. She has also been a sounding board for me when fleshing out new initiatives at the national level. I routinely turn to Brenda for her meticulous editing skills as well as for her expert insight and advice on the law school admissions process."

— **Laurie Motyka**, *Director, Admissions Consulting, Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions*, managed Brenda at Kaplan, Inc.

"Brenda was phenomenal in coaching me on my resume and cover letters for summer associate positions. Her feedback gave me quite an awakening about how I was coming across to employers, and I changed almost everything in my original letters. The new letters have personality and passion, and every sentence provides information that cannot quite be gathered from my resume. Throughout the entire process, Brenda provided a fantastic level of follow-up, straightforward honesty, and personalized attention to me, my questions, and my documents. Brenda's creativity and attention to detail helped me secure more interviews than I had even hoped for in the process - and, in a very tight economy, I succeeded in securing a summer associate position at a large firm in Milwaukee. I couldn't be happier with Brenda's work or recommend her more highly."

— **Nick Castronovo**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda Bernstein at The Essay Expert did a wonderful job on my LinkedIn profile review. The guidance she offered went beyond what I had hoped for, both in its detail and insight -- and my profile has improved immensely. Brenda put a great deal of time and effort into her work while delivering the finished product before expected delivery. I highly recommend her services for any individual or company wanting to present a more professional image on LinkedIn."

— **Jeff Crawford**, was Brenda's client

"I had been looking for new employment for over six months. Even with making several changes to my resume structure and wording, I wasn't getting any interviews. Then I had my resume reviewed by The Essay Expert. Within just two weeks of implementing The Essay Expert's top five suggestions, I received three invitations for interviews. I plan to hire Brenda's team for a full resume, profile, and cover letter analysis and will gladly suggest her company to friends and associates. Matt Von Rueden IT services professional"

— **Matthew Von Rueden**, was Brenda's client

"I first hired The Essay Expert to review my LinkedIn profile. They did such a great job that I hired

Brenda again to write a letter highlighting my accomplishments for a recruiter. Before I got help from The Essay Expert, it seemed like no matter what I sent to this recruiter it just wasn't right. The letter Brenda wrote was "killer" as I told her many times, and was exactly what the recruiter wanted. I got an interview based on that letter and was flown out to Cleveland the next day. I now go to Brenda every time I need *anything* important written – she is "Da Bomb!" Her company is definitely the "Expert" when it comes to conveying any message in writing – and a pleasure to work with every time. - Larry Megugorac, Director of Sales & Business Development, Brentwood, CA. October 17, 2009"

— **Larry Megugorac**, was Brenda's client

"I appreciated the free quick tips that Brenda provided for improving my LinkedIn profile. Based on that experience, I contracted with Brenda to analyze my profile in-depth. Her suggestions were very detailed and right on the mark. They made sense immediately and I'm working on implementing them. She gave me a new perspective on how to present myself and my business. It was a great value for a solo entrepreneur on a tight budget."

— **Julie A. Berg**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda was recommended to me when I was in a pinch needing assistance with a very detailed pre-interview questionnaire. I contacted her at the last moment and she helped me through the effort. Brenda's knowledge runs deep and she gave me several ideas to work with. I was stuck and spinning my wheels prior to her assistance. Her input helped me get my own creative ideas flowing. Brenda also went above and beyond and provided me follow up and review assistance upon completion of my project. I would recommend her to anyone!"

— **Paul Cutsforth**, was Brenda's client

"I engaged Brenda to review my LinkedIn profile. I thought she would give me some basic advice and suggest a few revisions. The engagement exceeded expectations -- from her immediate reply to me here in China, to on-time turnaround, to her ability to understand my needs. Thank you very much. Highly recommended!"

— **Roger McDonald**, was Brenda's client

"I knew my LinkedIn profile needed help, so I searched online for someone who could give me suggestions for improvement. Brenda stood out from the crowd -- a LOT of people had recommended her, and I can see why. From the start she was very easy to work with, and the results of her work were top-notch. Brenda's responses were quick and she provided great value. I highly recommend her if you want to bring your LinkedIn profile up a level."

— **Brian T Mulhern (@gmail.com)**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda did a fabulous job reviewing my LinkedIn profile. It was well worth the investment and I highly recommend her service. I received a detailed explanation and edits for each category, all the way down to recommendations. Brenda made suggestions which gave me more clarity about what points I wanted to emphasize and how to best present them. I feel much more confident in my LinkedIn profile after Brenda's review. Thanks for a job well done!"

— **William L. Mitchell**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda provided me with a lot of valuable advice and commentary regarding my LinkedIn profile. It certainly helped me revise my description and forced me to focus more on what's relevant and what's not. She's very professional in her work ethic and always responded in a timely manner to any questions I had. I highly recommend her to anyone interested in editing assistance."

— **Michael Stoltz**, was Brenda's client

""Brenda did a great job in assessing my LinkedIn profile and suggesting ways to improve the style and substance, bringing out ideas that I did not think of. I know that recruiters and hiring managers regularly look at a potential candidate's LinkedIn profile, so utilizing Brenda's expertise is well worth the investment. I highly recommended her.""

— **Jerry Colatrella (732) 275-2034**, was Brenda's client

"I love working with The Essay Expert. Brenda edits my blog on a weekly basis and does an absolutely amazing job. Not only does she find grammatical and spelling errors, but she makes sure she has a clear understanding of my objectives, and even looks for ways to improve the content -- something not many editors offer their clients. Brenda is great at what she does. I recommend her services highly and look forward to continuing to build a relationship with The Essay Expert."

— **Chris Kokalis**, was Brenda's client

"When Brenda offered a free LinkedIn profile review I figured "Why not?" She agreed to work with me even though we are competing with each other in the same market. I was surprised and glad she had the integrity to honor her offer even for a competitor! Brenda recommended that I think hard not just about dashes, semi-colons, and use of acronyms, but also about who I am and how I am presenting myself. She saw a few things about my writing -- and about me -- that my long-time acquaintances were not able to see ... all with humor and warmth and in a surprisingly quick time frame. I appreciate her time and talent as an editor and coach, and I am sure you will, too."

— **David L. White**, was Brenda's client

"I first worked with Brenda Bernstein on my law school applications and got great results. Brenda is easy to get along with, has a great sense of humor, and is also very smart. While looking for a job

after my federal judicial clerkship, I did not think twice before choosing The Essay Expert. Many years had passed since I had revised my resume, and it was a mess. Brenda asked me many insightful questions about the type of job I was trying to secure and what I wanted my resume to accomplish. A couple of days later, she had e-mailed me a revised version. From there, we worked on it together until it was perfect. And I wasn't the only one who was impressed! With my new resume, I quickly secured a job launching me in the top 2% of wage earners. Was it worth it? I think so."

— **Jonathan Howell**, was Brenda's client

"I am a product developer in the fashion industry. I found Brenda's ad in my neighborhood food coop and am very happy I did. She is very consistent, reliable and easy to work with, and understood my need to simplify my resume. She cut it down from 2 pages to 1 without any loss of content, and incorporating all necessary keywords! I have recommended her to several friends and will keep spreading the word about her talent and great service."

— **Tonya Blazio**, was Brenda's client

"I asked Brenda to review my LinkedIn profile and was surprised and impressed with her recommendations to improve the profile. Brenda responded very quickly and gave me some challenging questions about how I am presenting myself and also about who I am. In other words, much more than just the layout, dashes, semi-colons, etc. It's definitely worth the investment of \$50. She is a very talented editor!"

— **Erwin Van Hout**, was Brenda's client

"Brenda is a wonderful writer, editor and coach. I have used Brenda to help jump-start my job searches on several occasions, most recently in March 2009. She is professional and prompt, and she provides a thorough and complete perspective that takes my job hunt to the next level. Brenda transformed my resume and cover letter from a sedate listing of my accomplishments to a focused, energetic snapshot of who I am and what I can do for the organization I am applying to. I recommend her highly."

— **Ellen Rauch**, was Brenda's client

"I was stalling on submitting my article for publication. I had written three pages but my thoughts were not as focused and organized as I wanted them to be. After working with The Essay Expert, my article got submitted by deadline and was published with almost no editing by the publisher!"

— **Jill Sarah Moscovitz**, was Brenda's client

[Contact Brenda on LinkedIn](#)