

Here are few of the errors in the essays of applicants admitted to Harvard Business School in the class of 2017 (taken from [Harbus Essay Guide](#)):

Lack of clarity:

- ✗ I was able to maintain our business's ability to quote projects after short notice of a supplier cut-off several months earlier than expected. [Difficult to understand because of its convoluted structure]
- ✓ After the unexpected withdrawal of our supplier, I stepped in to ensure that quotations for new projects flowed like before. [Reworded to bring clarity]

Missing hyphen (highlighted in yellow):

- ✗ We enabled small and middle sized suppliers who only had access to one country in the region to expand their markets to all the countries where our client was present.
- ✓ We enabled small and middle-sized suppliers who only had access to one country in the region to expand their markets to all the countries where our client was present.
- ✗ I saw this challenge as my opportunity to apply everything I learned at Annapolis to a real world situation.
- ✓ I saw this challenge as my opportunity to apply everything I learned at Annapolis to a real-world situation.
- ✗ I threw a jab to stop him and low kicked him again.
- ✓ I threw a jab to stop him and low-kicked him again.

Missing comma (highlighted in yellow):

- ✗ Four years ago I took my first step towards that dream and started training in kickboxing.
- ✓ Four years ago, I took my first step towards that dream and started training in kickboxing.

- × As the Federation's president I gave press interviews and led diversity seminars in university campuses.
- ✓ As the Federation's president, I gave press interviews and led diversity seminars in university campuses.

These applicants could still get admitted possibly because they had exceptional profiles, which compensated for errors like these.