

# H A R V A R D L A W R E V I E W

In the interest of clearing up confusion about the *Harvard Law Review* (*HLR*) and our writing competition, this factsheet notes a couple of the concerns we have heard, along with our responses. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Coordinating and Outreach Chair, Chloe Cotton, at [ccotton@jd20.law.harvard.edu](mailto:ccotton@jd20.law.harvard.edu). Additional information about the write-on process is also available on our website: [www.harvardlawreview.org](http://www.harvardlawreview.org).

<b>MYTH</b>	<b>REALITY</b>
<i>HLR</i> editors sometimes work seventy hours per week!	The majority of editors do around fifteen to twenty hours of <i>HLR</i> work per week. Our President may sometimes put in upwards of forty hours, but it is rare for anyone else to do so.
If I can only work for part of the Competition week, I shouldn't bother trying.	Many current editors had other obligations (whether personal, academic, or professional) during the Writing Competition. By budgeting your time carefully and working hard, you can complete the Competition in less than the allocated amount of time.
I need to work 18-20 hours a day during the Competition.	While people spend very different amounts of time working on the Competition, no one does that many hours. Prioritizing sleep and not exhausting yourself is important to finishing the Competition and turning it in. You don't want to burn-out halfway through the week.
Everyone pulls all-nighters during the Competition week.	Some people do, and some people don't. If you have never pulled an all-nighter before, you probably don't need to start now. If you're someone who typically pulls multiple all-nighters during Exam week, you'll probably do one during the Competition as well.
If I take the competition, <i>HLR</i> editors will know my grades.	All of our grading is double blind. No editor will ever see your grades—they are completely detached from your name or any other identifying information.
If I don't have the Bluebook memorized, there's no point in taking the Competition.	You don't need to memorize the Bluebook! We'll give you a limited list of the Bluebook rules you need to correct for on the Competition. Knowing the others (the majority of Bluebook rules) is unnecessary.
If I'm not interested in a career in academia, I wouldn't get anything out of being on <i>HLR</i> .	Editors develop editing, writing, and critical thinking skills that are helpful to lawyers in any line of work—and even to JDs who don't end up practicing law at all.
The scoring process includes a personal evaluation of you, such as feedback from any coffee chats with editors.	The scoring process is double blind. Our Holistic Review process, which considers grades, competition scores, and the holistic review statement (if applicants choose to submit it) also doesn't consider applicants' names. Coffee chats are for your information only. It doesn't help to have friends already on <i>HLR</i> .
" <i>HLR</i> is only popular because President Obama was on it, and most editors are unhappy."	Although everyone has certain tasks they like most, and others they like least, the vast bulk of the work we do is intellectually challenging and substantively interesting. Editors value our community as well as the work we do.
If I didn't get great 1L grades, I have no shot at getting on to <i>HLR</i> .	Grades are not even considered for twenty of the forty-eight 1L editors who will be accepted. You definitely have a good shot, regardless of what your grades have been this year!
People on <i>HLR</i> are competitive with each other and it's hard to make friends and find community.	All of our work on <i>HLR</i> is collaborative. And in addition to working together, we have weekly game nights, share meals, celebrate every new issue's release together, play flag football, and more. We hope you'll consider joining our community!