



2019 WRITING COMPETITION

Tips Session #1 | April 9, 2019

- Group of 94 2Ls & 3Ls
- Student-run legal journal
- Publish pieces by outside and student authors



What is *Law Review*?

- Develop strong writing and editing skills – applicable to everything!
- Opportunity to become a published scholar and engage with big ideas
- Tight-knit community, strong alumni network

Why should I join?



Welcome!

The writing competition:

- Same info for everyone
 - Two parts, one week
 - Read instructions
- Meant to reflect the work of an editor on HLR
 - Biggest tip: finish!

This is not a trick.

1. Your entry must reflect your work only.
2. You may not consult or collaborate with anyone in any way regarding any part of the competition.
3. Double-blind.
4. No distributing or sharing competition materials with anyone.
5. No typing, scanning, or otherwise entering competition materials into a computer or other digital form.
6. No outside research.
7. No online Bluebook website.
8. More details will be provided in the competition packet.

Honor Code

Inappropriate conduct will result in disqualification from the competition and will be reported to the Administrative Board of the Law School, which will consider the issue a matter of academic misconduct.

Honor Code

1. Preparation and overall approach to the week.
2. Overview of the case comment.
3. Graders' tips for the case comment.
4. Strategies for writing the case comment.
5. Brief overview of the subcite.
6. Brief overview of logistics.

Roadmap for Today



1. Preparation and overall approach to the week.

- How did you prepare?
- Did you follow a schedule?
- What order did you do the two parts in?
- Was there anything that surprised you during the week?
- Where did you take the competition?
- Where did you do your printing/copying?

No single “how to.”



2. Overview of the case comment.

- Mirrors the student writing experience on HLR
- Stick to the format we give you
- Short: half reporting and half argument
- Closed universe of sources
- Do not need to use all (or most) of the sources
- Limited scope: no need to reinvent the law
- Clarity, structure, and a manageably sized argument will go a long way

Case Comment



3. Graders' tips for the case comment.

- What did you look for?
- What made certain case comments stand out?
- What were some common mistakes?
- What advice would you provide to this year's competition entrants?

Case Comment -- Graders' Tips



4. Strategies for writing the case comment.

- How did you get started?
- How did you find sources?
- How did you pick a thesis?

Case Comment -- Writing Tips



Case comment questions?



5. Brief overview of the subcite.

- Technical + substantive errors
- Mirrors the student editing experience on HLR
- Identify error + explain + offer correction
- Closed universe of Bluebook rules
- Printing and boxing comments
- Read instructions

Subcite

- Specific tips next Thursday, including practice
- (+ more ice cream!)

Subcite



Hang in there.



6. Brief overview of logistics.

- Pick up competition between 10 AM and noon on Saturday, **May 18** [Hauser 103].
- Submit competition between 10 AM and noon on Saturday, **May 25** [Hauser 103].
- Other deadlines:
 - Friday, **May 3** [5 PM]: request housing extension for HLS dorms.
 - Friday, **May 10**: submit competition mailing form.
- Remember to figure out your plan for printing and making copies ahead of time!

Logistics

1. Read instructions.
2. Finish and turn it in.
3. Not a test of how smart you are.

Takeaways

- Email or talk to us! (Chloe: ccotton@jd20.law.harvard.edu)
- You can still sign up for a coffee chat
- Next tips session: Thursday, April 18 |
5:30 - 7 PM | Langdell South

Questions?
