

Logistics

Question: What happens if you get really sick during the competition or there is an emergency?

The Writing Competition Reference Sheet will have instructions on the appropriate people to contact if you have any questions or in the event of an emergency during the Competition.

Question: Are we turning in a physical product? I was under the impression this was all done digitally.

The Competition will be submitted digitally, not physically. The Writing Competition Reference Sheet will have instructions on which files you will have to upload and how to upload them.

Question: Are you able to resubmit between 10 AM Friday and 11:59 AM Saturday? I anticipate being in transit Saturday, and I am curious if I can intermittently submit until the deadline or if I can only submit everything once and should do so before the chance of losing service.

You are only able to submit the Writing Competition once between 10 a.m. EDT on Friday, May 19, and 12 p.m. (noon) EDT on Saturday, May 20.

Question: Is the library open during the Writing Competition?

We recommend reviewing the Harvard Law School library website for the most up-to-date information regarding hours and availability (<https://hls.harvard.edu/library/use-the-library/>) during the Competition Week.

Holistic Review Statement

Question: Should there be any concern about including a specific identity in your holistic statement, or a combination of your identities that you list in your holistic statement that would easily be recognizable if the Editor grading happened to know you?

Our Holistic Review process is highly confidential and separate from the grading process. Applicants should feel free to write about any topic or subject they feel is responsive to the Holistic Review prompt.

Case Comment

Question: For the case comment, how do you go about tackling all the material and deciding which one you were going to use?

We recommend viewing our first Tip Session video on our Youtube channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1X-1Erv_EM), which has some advice from our current editors on how they approached the Case Comment.

Subcite

Question: How do corrections for nested errors work? If I get one wrong, do I get all of them wrong? Or do I get credit for the errors that are correct?

Each subcite error will have its own independent point value. Below, for example, is a sample with two errors. First, “of” should follow “defending.” Second, statutes is misspelled as “statues” instead of “statutes.”

If you only caught the first PARALLELISM error and did not get the SPELLING error, you would get points for only the PARALLELISM error. Similarly, if you only caught the second error and did not get the PARALLELISM error, you would get points for the SPELLING error.

increased scrutiny of the Solicitor
General's role in defending statutes and
the determination of government's
litigating positions. One possible
reason for this development is a rising

 Subciter 6:56 PM

PARALLELISM: Please consider <in defending statutes and determining or <in the defending of statutes and the determination of>. (1 point)

 Subciter 6:56 PM

SPELLING: Please consider <statutes>. (1 point)

In addition, please remember that:

- 1) Some corrections are contingent. If a suggested correction will create a new error, correct that new error as well.
- 2) You must suggest corrections that may become unnecessary as a result of other suggested corrections. For example, whenever you suggest deleting any part of the draft (e.g., repetition or incorrect placement), you must still edit that part as if it were to be retained.

Question: For the subcite, did you use every one of the Bluebook rules that was given to you?

As noted, you are not responsible for Bluebook rules that we have not given to you. You are, however, required to edit for consistency with the Bluebook rules provided in the Competition packet.

In addition to *The Bluebook*, the Harvard Law Review uses an internal style guide for consistency in grammar, punctuation, etc. The Competition packet includes several brief excerpts from that guide, and you should edit the subcite for consistency with those rules as well.

Question: In the subcite, if the error were “REPETITION” because a sentence read “a lawyer or an attorney,” would we have to highlight “a lawyer or an attorney” and suggest it be replaced with “a lawyer” or could we just highlight “or an attorney” and suggest it be replaced with “”?

Either approach is acceptable. As long as the grader knows that you identified the error, explained why it was an error, and recommended how to fix it, a Competition Taker will get credit.

However, we note that the suggested text must exactly replace the highlighted text. So, using the example from the question, if a Competition Taker highlighted “a lawyer or an attorney” and only wrote “lawyer,” without the “a,” they may not get full credit because that would make the sentence grammatically incorrect.

Question: Someone recommended physically printing out the subcite post-comments and cutting it up to rearrange the paragraphs. I suppose the implication is the paragraphs will be out of order. Is this advisable?

Choosing to follow this approach is entirely up to you. Both competition takers who have followed this approach and those who have not followed this approach have been successful. As is further detailed in the Competition packet, different errors have different point values. One of the potential 3- or 4-point errors is “Paragraph Placement.”

Question: Do you recommend waiting until the end to address structural issues (e.g., errors with sentence placement or paragraph placement)?

Choosing to follow this approach is entirely up to you. Both competition takers who have waited and those who have not waited have been successful.

Question: For the subcite, do we need to do anything to anonymize ourselves on Adobe Acrobat, or will that be done for us?

Depending on your operating system, Adobe may place your name on the comments. You must remove your name from the comments before submitting your subcite. Specific instructions will be given in the Writing Competition Reference Sheet and are also viewable here on our Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilVJCngziko>).

We suggest that you leave adequate time for this step. If you choose to anonymize all of the comments at once, the program may be slow, taking up to 10 minutes to fully anonymize the comments. Please make sure to save your work before attempting to anonymize comments.