

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

To clear up confusion about the *Law Review* and our writing competition, this factsheet notes a couple of the concerns we have heard, and our responses. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to our VP/Coordination, Diversity & Outreach, Alexis Michelle Adjei, at [vpoutreach@harvardlawreview.org](mailto:vpoutreach@harvardlawreview.org).

Additional information about the write-on process is available on our website: [www.harvardlawreview.org](http://www.harvardlawreview.org).

MYTH	REALITY
<i>HLR</i> editors sometimes work seventy hours per week!	Almost all of our editors do around fifteen to twenty hours of <i>HLR</i> work per week. Many of our editors are involved in multiple other activities including: clinics, SPOs, and affinity groups. Our editors also raise and support families, work as research assistants, and more!
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 and do well.
I need to work 18-20 hours a day during the Competition.	No one spends that much time on the competition. Prioritizing sleep and not exhausting yourself is very important to finishing the competition. 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 won't start now. If you're someone who typically pulls multiple all-nighters a semester, you'll probably pull 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-anonymized. No editor will 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.	Don't memorize the Bluebook! We'll give you a list of the Bluebook rules you need to correct for as part of 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.
Knowing someone on <i>HLR</i> or attending multiple outreach events will help me get on <i>HLR</i> .	It doesn't help to have friends on <i>HLR</i> . The scoring process is double-anonymized. Our Holistic Review process, which considers grades, competition scores, and the holistic review statement (if applicants choose to submit it) is also anonymous. All outreach events, including coffee chats, are only informational.
<i>HLR</i> work is just subciting.	Although everyone has tasks they like most and least, the vast bulk of our work is intellectually challenging and substantively interesting. In addition to technical editing (which many of us enjoy!), editors also engage with outside authors' and fellow editors' ideas. Editors also get three opportunities to write for <i>HLR</i> .
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 shot, regardless of what your grades have been this year!
People on <i>HLR</i> are competitive, and it's hard to make friends or find community.	All of our work is collaborative. We also have weekly game nights, share meals, celebrate new issues, play flag football, and much, much more. We hope you'll consider joining our community!