ORIENTATION 2013

Preparing for Classes
Goals for Today’s Session

- Understand CONTEXT for preparing for classes,

- Learn one METHOD for Briefing Cases,

- Understand How Consistent Case Briefing Benefits Outlining and Exam Taking.
“You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there.”
“I am a law student in my first year at the law, and there are many moments when I am simply a mess.”

“It was something like stirring concrete with my eyelashes.”
Schema as a Foundation
Stress
I. Topic sentence / main idea
   A. Supporting detail
      1. Example
         a. Detail
         b. Detail
      2. Example
   B. Supporting detail
II. Continued developing of main idea
III. Summary / conclusion / closure

**Basic outline**

**Venn diagram**

**Hierarchical topical organizer**

**Bubble topical organizer**
One Way to Think About Schema Organization

Keyword Optimization

- Start
- Quality Score?
  - Poor
    - Any Conversions?
      - Yes
        - CTR > 1.5X
      - No
        - Pause the keyword
    - Yes
      - Increase the bid
    - No
      - Pause the campaign CTR
- Optimize the ad
- Optimize the landing page
- End
The Case Method
If opinions are written by judges for the disputing parties, the lawyers, and other judges but not for the purpose of teaching law, then how can it work to teach us law?
For More On Effective Reading

Announcements

New Resources: Online Lessons for Legal Reading

View two essential lessons on legal reading here:

Legal Reading and Law School Success by Leah Christensen and Reading Like an Expert by Ruth Ann McKinney

read more

Download the Pre-Law Reading List

For incoming law students: download the Pre-Law Reading List.

This list provides incoming students with options for preparation, reflection and self-assessment before arriving at Washington & Lee. Students will find materials to (1) familiarize themselves with the structure, theory, and function of the American legal system, (2) materials introducing the pedagogy of law school and necessary analytical skills, and (3) materials for managing a successful job search. read more

Welcome

Welcome to the homepage for Academic Success resources at W&L. On this site you will find resources available to students for exam preparation and legal writing as well as a compilation of recommended readings on law school achievement and related
Case Briefs:

- Build Comprehension
- Allow you to Participate Actively in Class
- Help you Address New Situations Posed by Hypotheticals in Classes and on Writing Assignments
- Become the Starting Point for Synthesizing and Outlining the Course as a Whole
Case Name
Court
Plaintiff(s)
Defendant(s)
Cause(s) of Action
The legal theory forming the basis of a lawsuit.
(Operational) Facts
(Procedural) Posture
Issue(s)
Rules - Substantive
Rules - Procedural
Application and Reasoning
Opinions may:

- Illustrate the operation of a rule
- Broaden or Narrow a rule
- List exceptions to a rule
- Discuss policy considerations or implications of a rule
- Set up new elements or new factors to prove elements
- Set up new tests to prove elements
Concurrence(s) or Dissent(s)
Holding(s)
Outcome
New or Unfamiliar Terms
Caveats
Remainder of Day