

RESOURCE LIST FOR PRE-LAW STUDENTS AND ADVISORS

Below are some resources that may be of interest to pre-law students and their advisors. It is not an exhaustive list. The list focuses on three areas of interest: the difference between legal writing and other writing, persuasive written advocacy, and what to expect in your legal writing class in law school. Under each category, the list also specifies the type of source (multimedia, articles, or books).

1. Difference between Legal Writing and Other Writing

Multi-media sources

The Differences between Undergraduate Writing and Legal Writing, 12-minute video as part of the "Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School" series by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, <http://tenminutementorgoestolawschool.com/>.

Law School Toolbox Podcast, 011: Legal Writing 101 (Law School Toolbox, Podcast)
<http://lawschooltoolbox.com/01-to-11-be-ready-to-throw-your-writing-style-out-the-window/>

This website contains some info/advice:

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/pre_law.html

("Writing and Editing

As you seek to prepare for a legal education, you should develop a high degree of skill at written communication. Language is the most important tool of a lawyer, and lawyers must learn to express themselves clearly and concisely.

Legal education will provide you with good training in writing, and particularly in the specific techniques and forms of written expression that are common in the law. Fundamental writing skills, however, must be acquired and refined before you enter law school. You should seek as many experiences as possible that will require rigorous and analytical writing, including preparing original pieces of substantial length and revising written work in response to constructive criticism.")

Eric Fleetham and Wendy Tenzer, *Strategies for Helping Students Transition to Legal Writing*, http://www.lwionline.org/uploads/BiennialMaterial/BC6-02_Strategies_for_Transitioning_to_Legal_Writing_v_2.pdf

Articles

Anne Enquist, *Unlocking the Secrets of Highly Successful Legal Writing Students*, 82 St. John's L. Rev. 609 (2007).

Anne Enquist, *Talking to Students about the Differences Between Undergraduate Writing and Legal Writing* 13 Perspectives 104 (Winter 2005).

Michael R. Smith, *The Next Frontier: Exploring the Substance of Legal Writing*, 2 J. ASS'N LEGAL WRITING DIRECTORS 1 (2004)

Phu Nguyen, *The Art of Legal Writing: How to Find Your Voice*, BEFORE THE BAR (Mar. 1, 2016) <http://abaforlawstudents.com/2016/03/01/the-art-of-legal-writing-how-to-find-your-voice/>

Lee Burgess, *Ready to Throw Your Writing Style out the Window*, LAW SCHOOL TOOLBOX (July 11, 2013) <http://lawschooltoolbox.com/01-to-11-be-ready-to-throw-your-writing-style-out-the-window/>

2. **Advocacy in Writing/Persuasive Advocacy**

Multi-media sources

Garner's Interviews, LAWPROSE (last visited Dec. 22, 2016) <http://www.lawprose.org/bryan-garner/garners-interviews/> (video interviews with Supreme Court Justices, lawyers and other judges on persuasive writing).

Articles

Finding your PURPOSE – PERSUASIVE WRITING vs. OBJECTIVE WRITING, http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/academic-programs/legal-writing-scholarship/writing-center/upload/persuasive_000.pdf

Judge Stephen J. Dwyer, Leonard J. Feldman & Ryan P. McBride, *How to Write, Edit, and Review Persuasive Briefs: Seven Guidelines from One Judge and Two Lawyers*, 31 Seattle L.R. 417 (2008). (WAH)

Michael R. Smith, *Seven Foundational Skills of Effective Legal Writing*, 39 Wyo. Law. 16 (2016).

Judge Harry Pregerson & Suzianne Painter-Thorne, *The Seven Virtues of Appellate Brief Writing: An Update from the Bench*, 38 Sw. L. Rev. 221 (2008)

Judge Harry Pregerson, *The Seven Sins of Appellate Brief Writing and Other Transgressions*, 34 UCLA L. Rev. 431 (1986).

3. **What to Expect in Your Legal Writing Class**

Multimedia sources

Merry Sheehan, *Student Voices: Learning to Write Like a Lawyer*, THE ROAD TO 1L (Mar. 18, 2015), <http://theroadto1l.blogs.law.suffolk.edu/general/student-voices-learning-to-write-like-a-lawyer/>

Articles

Suzanne E. Rowe, *Legal Research, Legal Writing, and Legal Analysis: Putting Law School into Practice*, 29 Stetson L.R. 1193 (2000), available at <http://faculty.law.lsu.edu/toddbruno/Legal%20Writing%20I/29-4ROWE.pdf>

Miriam E. Felsenburg & Laura P. Graham, *Beginning Legal Writers in Their Own Words: Why The First Weeks Of Legal Writing Are So Tough And What We Can Do About It*, 16 Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst. 223 (2010)

Danielle Pineres, *Ten Tips for Transitioning to Legal Writing*, (The Writing Center at GULC 2011)

J. Christopher Rideout & Jill J. Ramsfield, *Legal Writing: The View from Within*, 61 MERCER L. REV. 705 (2010)

Elizabeth Adamo Usman, *Making Legal Education Stick: Using Cognitive Science to Foster Long-Term Learning in the Legal Classroom*, 29 GEO. J. LEGAL ETHICS 355 (2016)

Delece Smith-Barrow, *Learn to Read, Write Like a Law Student Before Classes Start*, U.S. News, Aug. 1, 2013, <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/articles/2013/08/01/learn-to-read-write-like-a-law-student-before-classes-start>.

[Doretta McGinnis](#), *Embrace the Difference of Legal Writing*, LAW SCHOOL TOOLBOX (Sept. 8 2015) <http://lawschooltoolbox.com/embrace-the-difference-of-legal-writing/>

Books

Andrew McClurg, *1L of a Ride*

Richard C. Wydick, *Plain English for Lawyers* (5th Ed.)

Bryan Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English* (2nd Ed.)

