

**LEGAL WRITING II**  
**Class Assignments and Schedule**  
Sections 3&4  
Vermont Law School  
Spring Semester 2021  
Professor Brian Porto

Week of 1/11	TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT
1/12	Discuss course goals and expectations; discuss aims and importance of legal writing  <b>Read:</b> Six Simple Steps to Improved Writing (C.P., pp. 1-7).
1/14	Discuss President Obama’s Selma Speech as an illustration of effective argument  <b>Read:</b> (C.P., pp. 8-17).
Week of 1/18	
1/19	Discuss personal injury law and sports  <b>Read:</b> Feldman & Stein article (C.P., pp. 107-126)  <i>Wright v. Mt. Mansfield Lift, Inc.</i> (C.P., pp. 127-132).
1/21	Continue discussing personal injury law and sports  <b>Read:</b> 12 V.S.A. § 1036 and 12 V.S.A. § 1037 (C.P., pp. 133-134)  <i>Sunday v. Stratton Corporation</i> (C.P., pp. 135-145).

Week of 1/25

1/26

Finish discussing personal injury law and sports

**Read:**

*Nelson v. Snowridge, Inc.*, d/b/a Sugarbush Resort  
(C.P., pp. 146- 150)

*Estate of Frant v. Haystack Group, Inc.*  
(C.P., pp. 151- 156).

**Trial Brief Assignment Distributed**

1/28

Discuss writing a trial brief

**Read:**

Sample Trial Brief  
(C.P., pp. 89-97)

“Reluctant Literati: Lawyers as Professional Writers”  
(C.P., pp. 18-24).

Week of 2/01

2/02

Finish discussing the writing of a trial brief  
Begin discussing effective writing techniques

**Read:**

“You Convinced Me, Sections I and II  
(C.P., pp. 25-43)

2/04

Continue discussing effective writing techniques

**Review:**

“You Convinced Me,” Sections I and II  
(C.P., pp. 25-43)

**Do style exercises in class.** (C.P., pp. 81-82).

**Trial Brief Assignment Due February 4<sup>th</sup> (Thurs).**

Week of 2/08

2/09

Finish discussing effective writing techniques

**Read:**

“You Convinced Me,” Sections III and IV  
(C.P., pp. 43-56)

“Quick Proofreading Tips for Busy Attorneys”  
(C.P., pp. 69-75)

**Do punctuation exercises in class.** (C.P., pp. 83-84).

2/11

Discuss quotation and citation format.

**Read:**

“Making Your Writing Out of Cite: Using *The Bluebook* to Improve Your Writing and Credibility”  
(C.P., pp. 63-68)

**Do citation exercises in class.** (C.P., pp. 85-88).

Week of 2/15

2/16

Begin discussing organized prayer and sports

**Read:**

Dayton, Bryant, and Berry article  
(C.P., pp. 157-170)

*Doe v. Duncanville Ind. Sch. Dist.*  
(C.P., pp. 187-200).

2/18

Continue discussing organized prayer and sports

**Read:**

*Santa Fe Ind. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*  
(C.P., 185-207)

*Bible Club v. Placentia-Yorba Linda Sch. Dist.*  
(C.P., pp. 208-218).

Week of 2/22

2/23 Finish discussing organized prayer and sports.  
Discuss writing a trial court decision/order.

**Read:**

*Kennedy v. Bremerton Sch. Dist.*  
(C.P., pp. 219-245).

**Trial court decision/order assignment distributed.**

2/25 Begin discussing sex discrimination in sports

**Read:**

Buzuvis article  
(C.P., pp. 246-265)

Title IX, 20 U.S.C.A. §§ 1681-88  
(C.P., pp. 266-276).

Week of 3/01 SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

Week of 3/08

3/09 Continue discussing sex discrimination in sports

**Read:**

F.R.C.P. 56  
(C.P., pp. 277-280)

*Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*  
(C.P., pp. 281-301).

**Trial court decision/order assignment due March 9<sup>th</sup> (Tues).**

3/11 Continue discussing sex discrimination in sports

**Read:**

Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree in  
*Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*  
(C.P., pp. 302-312)  
*Burch v. Regents of U. of California*

(C.P., pp. 313-319, 324 (Section B) – 330.

Week of 3/15

3/16 Finish discussing sex discrimination in sports

**Read:**

*Bolla v. University of Hawaii*  
(C.P., pp. 338-348)

*Cummings v. Texas Southern University*  
(C.P., pp. 349-355).

3/18 Begin discussing persuasive writing

**Read:**

Sample Motion Memorandum  
(C.P., pp. 98-106).

**Motion Memorandum Assignment Distributed.**

Week of 3/22

3/23 Finish discussing persuasive writing

3/25 Discuss summary judgment.  
Review Title IX and law of retaliation.

**Reread:**

(C.P., pp. 266-280).

Week of 3/29

3/30 Discuss oral argument.

**Read:**

“Oral Argument and Advocacy: Practice-Ready Tips”  
(C.P., pp. 75-80).

**First Draft of Motion Memorandum  
Assignment Due March 30<sup>th</sup> (Tues).**

**Final Version Due One Week after  
Conference (by Noon).**

4/01	Individual Conferences (NO CLASS)
4/02 (FRI)	Individual Conferences
Week of 4/05	Individual Conferences (NO CLASS)
Week of 4/12	
4/12 (MON)	Individual Conferences
4/13	Oral Argument Practice Session
4/15	Oral Arguments
Week of 4/19	
4/19-4/21	Oral Arguments
4/22	Course evaluation and debriefing.