

Bar Exam Skills and Tactics (WRI 7352)

Fall Semester 2021, Professor Jessica Durkis-Stokes

First Assignment – Discussion Board Post

Due: September 2, 2021, at 11:59PM

Instructions:

Effective organization of information is important to success on the bar exam. The Temm text uses mind maps to help create an overview of the general concepts of law. Each week, you will submit an outline/mind map or other organizational tool for the topic covered that week. For the first 3 weeks, you will be required to submit a mind map because I want you to get some exposure to mind mapping. Beginning in Week 5 (there isn't a mind map activity in Week 4), you may continue to mind map or use a traditional outline instead.

For the first 3 weeks, you will also be required to comment on 2 other student's mind maps. The purpose of this is to expose you to various ways that other students organize information because you might want to steal some ideas! Beginning in Week 4, you will not have to comment on other student's submissions. You can either do your Mind Map by hand or use a program. I have found Coogler to be a useful and helpful program. It is free and I find it fairly intuitive. You are welcome to use Coogler or any other program you would like. Below is a sample of what a Mind Map for torts might look like.

You only need to include the material covered in the Temm book or videos on your mind maps. You will NOT get credit just for submitting outlines or mind maps from the subject from your law school classes. The coverage and purpose for the bar is different.

For this assignment in Week 1, you are organizing the components of the bar exam as discussed in the Temm text and the readings in a mind map. For Week 2 and Week 3, your mind map will be for Constitutional Law and Contracts. Each mind mapping assignment will include the following:

Part 1: Referring to the topic/branch for the module, create your own mind map relating to the principles cited in the Temm text (corresponding pages will be listed in each individual mind map assignment.)

Part 2: Reflect on the totality of your overarching mind map. How does this topic relate to other branches under the general concept of Law. Are there any overlapping principles or concepts from one branch to another? Make sure to discuss this point when you post your updated mind map to the discussion board. Could you use these overlapping principles to help when preparing for the bar exam?

Part 3: Review your classmates mind maps, observing the variety of ways each person has depicted their branching. While you are not required to make comments on other

students' mind maps, an important part of this activity is to see how other students formulated their mind map and visual representations of each topic. This may provide insights to you that you had not previously thought of. However, once again, the onus is on you to get the most from this activity and class as possible.

Suggested Approach to Assignment:

You are encouraged to work through this activity as you work through the content in the module lesson and complete the corresponding readings. Start a draft document and keep adding to it as you come across concepts within the content of the lesson that might allocate a branch in your mind map. When you have completed the lesson, review your mind map and make any changes or additional branches/connections between concepts that are beneficial to you for future reference. After you have posted your mind map, review your classmates to see if there are any other connections you may have missed or alternate viewpoints that you might consider. Completing each of these steps throughout the lesson will provide additional opportunities to encode this information within your mind for future use.

Method of Evaluation: This assignment is on a 0-10 scale.

10 - Submissions in this range must be completed on-time and in-full. Responses were thoughtful and represented good faith effort.

5 - Assignment submitted late (at professor's discretion) or incomplete. Responses were lacking or did not represent a good faith effort.

0 - Assignment not submitted or late submission not accepted by professor. For this assignment, if you submit something other than a mind map, you will not get credit.

Initial Post Due Dates: Your initial post is due by 11:59 p.m. E.T. on Day 4 of Week 1.

Response Due Dates: Responses to your classmates are due by 11:59 p.m. E.T. on Day 7 of Week 1.