LEGAL WRITING II
Class Assignments and Schedule
Sections 3&4
Vermont Law School
Spring Semester 2022
Professor Brian Porto

Week of 1/17

1/20
Discuss course goals and expectations; discuss aims and importance of legal writing

Read:
Six Simple Steps to Improved Writing and
President Obama’s Selma Speech
(C.P., pp. 1-18).

Week of 1/24

1/25
Discuss personal injury law and sports

Read:
Friedli article (C.P., pp. 85-102)

Wright v. Mt. Mansfield Lift, Inc.
(C.P., pp. 103-110).

1/27
Continue discussing personal injury law and sports

Read:
12 V.S.A. § 1036 and 12 V.S.A. § 1037
(C.P., pp. 111-112)

Sunday v. Stratton Corporation
(C.P., pp. 113-128).

Week of 1/31

2/1
Finish discussing personal injury law and sports

Read:
Nelson v. Snowridge, Inc., d/b/a Sugarbush Resort
2/3  Reply memorandum assignment distributed
Discuss writing a reply memorandum

Read:
Sample Motion Memorandum I
(C.P., pp. 64-75)

“Reluctant Literati: Lawyers as Professional Writers”
(C.P., pp. 19-27).

Week of 2/7

2/8  Finish discussing the writing of a reply memorandum
Begin discussing effective writing techniques

Read:
“You Convinced Me, Sections I and II
(See TWEN or your email)

2/10  Continue discussing effective writing techniques

Review:
“You Convinced Me,” Sections I and II

Do style exercises in class.  (C.P., pp. 55-58).

Week of 2/14

2/15  Finish discussing effective writing techniques

Read:
“You Convinced Me,” Sections III and IV
(See TWEN or your email)

“Quick Proofreading Tips for Busy Attorneys”
Do punctuation exercises in class. (C.P., pp. 59-60).

Reply Memorandum Due February 15th.

2/17 Discuss quotation and citation format.

Read:
“Making Your Writing Out of Cite: Using The Bluebook to Improve Your Writing and Credibility” (C.P., pp. 29-37)

Do citation exercises in class. (C.P., pp. 61-63).

Week of 2/21

2/22 Begin discussing freedom of speech and sports

Read:
Zastrow article (C.P., pp. 146-159)


2/24 Continue discussing freedom of speech and sports

Read:
Seamons v. Snow (C.P., pp. 166-176)


Week of 2/28 NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

Week of 3/7

3/8 Finish discussing freedom of speech and sports. Discuss writing a trial court decision/order.
Read:
Lowery v. Euverard
(C.P., pp. 186-208).

Trial court decision/order assignment distributed.

3/10  Begin discussing sex discrimination in sports

Read:
Buzuvis article
(C.P., pp. 209-234)

Title IX, 20 U.S.C.A. §§ 1681-88
(C.P., pp. 235-248).

Week of 3/14

3/15  Continue discussing sex discrimination in sports

Read:
F.R.C.P. 56
(C.P., pp. 249-252)

Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education
(C.P., pp. 253-273).

3/17  Continue discussing sex discrimination in sports

Read:
Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree in
Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education
(C.P., pp. 274-284)

Neushul v. Regents of U. of California

Week of 3/21

3/22  Finish discussing sex discrimination in sports

Read:
Bolla v. University of Hawaii
(C.P., pp. 305-320)
Cummins v. Texas Southern University
(C.P., pp. 321-326).

Trial Court Decision/Order Due 3/22.

3/24  Begin discussing persuasive writing

Read:
Sample Motion Memorandum II
(C.P., pp. 76-84).

Motion memorandum assignment distributed

Week of 3/28

3/29  Finish discussing persuasive writing

3/31  Discuss summary judgment.
      Review Title IX and law of retaliation.

Reread:
      (C.P., pp. 235-251).

Week of 4/4

4/5   Discuss oral argument.

Read:
      “Oral Argument and Advocacy: Practice-Ready Tips”
      (C.P., pp. 47-54).

First Draft of Motion Memorandum
Assignment Due April 5th (Tues).

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

4/7   Individual Conferences Begin (NO CLASS)

4/8 (FRI)  Individual Conferences

Week of 4/11  Individual Conferences (NO CLASS)
4/12  Individual Conferences (NO CLASS)
4/14  Individual Conferences (NO CLASS)
4/15 (FRI)  Individual Conferences

Week of 4/18
4/18 (MON)  Individual Conferences
4/19  Oral argument practice in class
4/20  Individual conferences conclude
4/21  MPT administered in class
4/22 (FRI)  Oral Arguments begin

Week of 4/25
4/25  Oral Arguments
4/26  Oral Arguments (NO CLASS)
4/27  Oral Arguments end
4/28  Course evaluation and debriefing