Legal Research Concepts Quizzes
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Frustrated by the ineffectiveness of lecture and as an enticement to spend class time actually doing legal research, I wrote these quizzes as a check on reading comprehension and as the basis for a short (20 minutes max) class discussion on the resources. The students seem to find them more engaging, especially the true/false questions (most of the answers are false to give students the opportunity to think about what would make them true statements). Because we focus solely on electronic research for our first-year legal research class, none of the concept questions focus on print resources.

This was a new creation for the spring semester (that’s why I’ve only submitted concept quizzes for statutes, legislative history, and administrative law research). Ideally, in the fall semester, I will have similar quizzes to contribute for secondary sources, case law research, and citators. Another benefit of these quizzes was the fact that, at the end of the spring semester, our first-year students take a comprehensive, multiple-choice legal research exam. These brief conceptual quizzes are good practice for seeing how legal research knowledge questions can be asked (as opposed to task-based questions).