

2019 National Legal Research Teach-In Kit

Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section
American Association of Law Libraries

Timed Email Research Questions, Advanced Legal Research

Anne Mostad-Jensen
Head of Faculty Services
University of North Dakota
Thormodsgard Law Library
2968 2nd Avenue North Stop 9004
Grand Forks, ND 58202
Anne.mostadjensen@und.edu

The timed email research questions are short research assignments given to students in an Advanced Legal Research course. The students received the assignments at the beginning of class via email from their “supervisor” at a law firm or other legal environment. The questions are very basic and should only take 2-6 minutes to complete. This assignment was incorporated to give students a chance to work under pressure. In past semesters students seem to have developed a false sense of confidence in their research skills because they can find the answer, even if they can’t find it efficiently. This allows them to assess how efficient they are and benchmark their performance. If their performance falls short of where they want to be they will have access to a bank of similar questions to practice in order to become more efficient researchers.