

## **Citation Literacy**

By Alexa Z. Chew. 70 Ark. L. Rev. 869 (2018).

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### **Reviewer's Summary:**

In this article, Chew argues that legal writing classes should incorporate “citation literacy” instruction, focused on the role of legal citation as communication. Under this approach, before students are taught how to cite sources on their own, they are taught to read citations, to assess the encoded information they provide, and how courts and practitioners use citations to support their arguments. Chew contrasts this approach with the generally prevailing “write-first” citation pedagogy which emphasizes proper formatting. In Part II of the article, Chew discusses citation convention and the communicative purposes served by those conventions. Part III discusses how traditional legal pedagogy fails to teach the skill of understanding citations, for example, by assigning casebook readings in which in-line citations are stripped away. Part IV provides guidance for teaching using the citation literacy approach.

**Summarized by:** David M. Haendler, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, in 2019.