On Embracing the Research Conference


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**Keywords:** AALL Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency; ABA Standards; Advanced Legal Research; Analytical Skills; Course Design; Critical Thinking; Experiential; Learning; Legal Research Instruction; MacCrate Report; Millennials; Pedagogy

**Reviewer’s Summary:**

Drake first outlines a pedagogical argument for scheduling research conferences with students in addition to writing conferences. Her reasoning includes that students will receive formative feedback in line with ABA Standards 304 and 314. Additionally, conferences can provide students with greater buy-in into their learning experience and give instructors a better understanding of how students learn. Millennial learners in particular are likely to enjoy the collaboration with an instructor that a conference provides. After discussing the importance of research conferences in developing analytical research skills, Drake outlines how research conferences can be applied to both first-year and upper-level legal research classes, including when to schedule the conferences, how to structure them, and two pre-conference questionnaires for students in the Appendix.

**Summarized by:** Savanna L. Nolan, Georgetown University Law Library, in 2019.