

The Five-Minute Exercise: A Method for Using Modified Lectures in the Legal Research Classroom

By Nicole Downing. 38 Legal Reference Services Q. 1 (2019).

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Reviewer's Summary:

Downing begins by defining passive and active learning pedagogy, extensively citing the landmark legal research pedagogy articles of the last decade. She then argues in favor of Bonwell's "modified lecture" model blending the traditional lecture and a flipped classroom approach. Downing has incorporated this into her own classes using "five-minute exercises"—discreet, clear, and short assignments asking students to apply, demonstrate, or analyze a theory they just heard about. In Downing's classes, these five-minute exercises tend to come after 15-20 minutes of lecture (the generally accepted length of a student's attention span as shown by studies). Downing provides very thorough instructions on how to craft such exercises, and two appendixes showing the schedules for two of her class sessions before and after implementing this method.

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