

Creating Assessment Plans for Introductory Legal Research and Writing Courses

By Victoria L. VanZandt, 16 Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst. 313 (2010).

Article Categories: Legal Research Instruction for 1Ls

Keywords: Assessments; Competencies; Learning Outcomes; Legal Research Instruction; Legal Writing

Reviewer's Summary:

This article discusses integrating assessment activities for Legal Research and Writing classes into formalized assessment planning. The author notes the most Legal Research and Writing classes already utilize multiple formative assessments for grading purposes. The goal here is to use such exercises as tools to assess the achievement of the stated course learning outcomes. Having such an assessment plan at the course level will be beneficial because it can be utilized to show how the course fits into the institutional-level assessment plan. The article provides an overview of assessment planning both at the institutional and student learning level and provides an in-depth examination of assessment tools that are commonly utilized in Legal Research and Writing classes. It also includes a sample assessment plan for a Legal Research and Writing class as well as an appendix of action verbs for learning outcomes.

Summarized by: Julie Tedjeske, Duquesne University School of Law, in 2020.