

## **Lightning Lessons: Blending Outreach and Instruction in a Flash**

By AJ Blechner & Heather Joy. AALL Spectrum 29 (July/Aug. 2020).

**Article Categories:** Course Creation & Design

**Keywords:** Backward Design; Course Design; Engagement; Legal Research Instruction; Low-Cost

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

In their article, Blechner and Joy describe brief instructional sessions labeled "Lightning Lessons." They begin by explaining that a Lightning Lesson is a quick legal research tutorial session provided to students in a high-traffic area in the law school. The authors discuss the benefits of Lightning Lessons, why they work, and how librarians can use Lightning Lessons at their institutions. The authors note that the advantages of Lightning Lessons include reaching many students at a time and place that is convenient for them while making minimal demands on students' time. To help librarians develop Lightning Lessons, the article links to a folder containing helpful resources, including a checklist, a sample handout, topic ideas, and a planning worksheet. The authors also reference a forthcoming post on the *RIPS Law Librarian Blog* that will suggest ways to adapt Lightning Lessons to COVID-19 social distancing conditions.

**Summarized by:** Alisa Holahan, Tarlton Law Library and Jamail Center for Legal Research, in 2020.