

2021 National Legal Research Teach-In Kit

Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section
American Association of Law Libraries

State Statutes Assignment

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These activities were used in multiple sections of an asynchronous basic research course during the Fall of 2020. Included is the practice problem, the discussion board prompt, a screenshot of one of the discussion boards, and a partial sample answer.

For this weekly assignment the students were given a research problem. They then were directed to a discussion board prompt where they were asked to go to the free [Kialo website](#) and post pro and con arguments. The following week we posted a partial answer, which they then could use to compare their work. It also sped up the time involved for providing individual feedback.

To view the entire kit, please visit <URL for this year's kit: TBD>

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Name: _____
Basic Legal Research
Weekly Practice

Class 6 – State Statutes Research Process

Instructions:

Spend at least an hour and fifteen minutes working on this assignment. You may work in Lexis, Westlaw, or both. You will be researching one problem and finding statutes and cases that help answer the question. If you struggle to find relevant statutes and cases, write down your research steps to show me how you tried to find them. This will help me provide you with feedback to help you overcome the same issue(s) in the future. This will also ensure you receive full credit. You may write down your research steps even if you do not have trouble finding the answer, as more complete information allows me to provide you with additional feedback.

I encourage you to reach out to me at any time with questions. You may attend office hours for help, or contact me using another method on the syllabus for assistance in going over any of the problems. Remember, you are not graded on getting the correct answer. I expect everyone to periodically arrive at an incorrect or incomplete answer as you learn how to use the tools and strategies covered in the class.

Submit the assignment by the due date in Canvas. You will submit it from the same location where you downloaded the assignment. I will provide feedback directly on your assignment in Canvas. If you have trouble meeting the deadline due to our unusual circumstances this year, please let me know. I am happy to work with you.

Try to put your answers in Bluebook format – it's great practice! You can also practice your Bluebooking and earn badges by completing Interactive Citation Workstation lessons.

1. Sam Surley was in the parking lot of a local supermarket in Laramie, Wyoming when he became engaged in an altercation with another shopper. He used his cane to repeatedly hit the other shopper. He caused bruising and lacerations to the shopper's arms and abdomen. He also broke the shopper's left wrist. The police were called to break up the fight. Did Mr. Surley commit a crime?
 - a. Find, cite and annotate the most relevant statutes. Your annotation should provide a summary in your own words of the law, and why it is relevant to the issues of Mr. Surley's case.
 - b. Find, cite and annotate at least 3 cases that deal with a situation similar to what Mr. Surley is facing. Your annotation should provide a summary in your own words of the law and why it is relevant to the issues of Mr. Surley's case.
 - c. What should Sam Surley be charged with and why? Can his crime be enhanced by considering a cane as a deadly weapon? (Be sure to walk through the analysis that led you to your conclusion.)