

## Write-On Competition Information

### **The Writing Exercise:**

Students will receive a packet of PDF sources related to a specific legal issue. This packet will include both primary and secondary sources on a topic selected by the Executive Notes and Comments Editor and the Editor-in-Chief. The topic will remain confidential until the competition begins. The topic will only be released in the Write-On packet on Bridges once the competition opens! Students must use the sources provided, and *only* the sources provided, to form a legal argument. Students may *not* consult any outside materials or the internet. Students should draft an organized paper that answers the call of the question as provided in the instructions.

### **The Cite-Checking Assignment:**

Students will also receive a list of **ten prompts** and a PDF binder of sources that the Executive Articles Editors have compiled. For the first **five prompts**, students will be given a sentence and a source highlighting the material relevant to the sentence. Students will create a Bluebook-compliant citation for each sentence using the given source. For the other **five prompts**, students will be given an incorrect citation with a set number of errors and a source highlighting the material relevant to the citation. Students will provide the correct citation and identify the citation's errors by referencing the relevant Bluebook rule. Remember: use the **Bluebook's Whitepages** and **Tables** to help you complete this assignment!

### **Timeline for Competition:**

The write-on competition will open on Bridges on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. and will close on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. The anonymous Bridges page will be open to all eligible 1L students, part-time students, and transfer students. The Bridges page will give applicants access to the write-on materials, and students will submit their completed materials anonymously on the Bridges page. Once students begin the competition, they will have **only** 16 days to complete all components. Students may start the competition at any time during the window above, but submissions will close on June 2 at 8:00 a.m. If a student begins the competition with fewer than 16 days remaining in the period, they will have to complete the competition by the close date regardless. If students encounter any issues with Bridges or have any questions related to the materials, they may submit their questions on the Bridges page's forum. Questions submitted on the forum are also anonymous.

Pursuant to the Law Review By-Laws, the write-on competition will be **graded anonymously**. Students participating in the write-on will be required to use their anonymous number rather than their names and will submit their materials through the Bridges page. The library staff will be uploading the materials to the Bridges page. The only interaction that the Editor-in-Chief, Executive Articles Editors, and Notes and Comments team will have with students participating in the write-on, is if questions are submitted on the forum while the write-on is open.

### **Grading Process:**

Pursuant to the Law Review By-Laws, there will be no automatic invitations for membership based solely on academic performance. Pursuant to the Law Review By-Laws, **fifty percent** of a student's score will be derived from the student's write-on competition submission, consisting of both the comment submission and the cite-checking assignment, and **fifty percent** of the score will be derived from the student's grade point average. There is no minimum GPA requirement. Students need only be in good academic standing to participate in the write-on, pursuant to section 3.03 of the Law Review By-Laws. As soon as possible after semester grades are posted, the GPAs are collected by the Editor-in-Chief from Doug Peterson through the use of anonymous

numbers.

Once the write-on is closed, the Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Executive Notes & Comments Editor, and a member of the notes and comment team will each read every comment and individually score the papers. Each paper will receive four independent scores. The Executive Articles Editors will grade the cite-checking assignment.

While grading, the graders will be looking at the following: strength of analysis, writing style, readability, organization, punctuation, spelling, grammar, and conformity with the Bluebook. Please see the grading rubric for more information on how applicants can earn points.

The Editor-in-Chief, the Executive Articles Editors, and the Executive Notes and Comments Editor have decided that the comment will be worth **thirty percent** of the write-on submission, and the cite-checking assignment will be worth **twenty percent** of the write-on submission.

The individual comment scores, the cite-checking assignment scores, and the student's GPA will be entered into a spreadsheet program that will produce the student's overall raw score. The Google spreadsheet utilizes the percentages outlined above as a formula to score each student anonymously.

The Notes and Comments team, the Executive Articles Editors, and the Editor-in-Chief will decide how many students are being invited to join the Law Review. If they are unable to reach an agreement, the Editor-in-Chief has final say in the number of students invited to join. Law Review is committed to only accepting qualified applicants who submit well-written work showing great strength in writing style, grammar, comprehension, and citations.

#### **Invitation Process:**

Once final decisions have been made by the executive editors, anonymous numbers will be turned in to the registrar's office and the registrar's office will return a list of student names. Students will then be notified of their invitation to join Law Review within two weeks of the Law Review receiving their class ranks, in compliance with the Law Review By-Laws. Students will receive a phone call notifying them of their offer. Thereafter, students will receive an official offer letter.

The decision of whether to extend an offer of membership to a student is final, and there is no appeals process, pursuant to the Law Review By-Laws. All submissions will be destroyed after selections have been made, and no grades or comments regarding any of the submissions will be made available to anyone except the Board of Editors and the faculty advisors, pursuant to the Law Review By-Laws.

#### **Next Steps:**

After students receive their invitation to join law review, and if they choose to accept, students must return their signed offer letter within 72 hours. After all acceptance letters have been received, the Board of Editors will issue an announcement listing all new members.