

## PAPER - INSTRUCTIONS

The research paper should be turned in by the beginning of class on the date due, to my email address (tkalino@siue.edu), from your University email address, with an attached Word file, and a Subject Line similar to the following: POLS 390 - Research Paper. The name of the Word file should be <lastname><firstinitial>ResearchPaper390.doc. An example KalinowskiTResearchPaper390.doc. The extension may be .docx

Please review the article in Blackboard by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals regarding Typography -- sections 2, 3, and 5. Conform to this document unless it conflicts with something specified below.

- 1) Cover page with your name and your topic number and topic.
- 2) Page setup: 8.5" x 11", 12 pt Bookman Old Style font, double spaced, 1 inch margins, and left justified except for headings. If for some reason you do not have access to this font, please come talk to me. If for some reason you *need* to use a sans serif font, the only one that I can read passably well is Ebrima, but I would prefer that you work in your favorite font, then convert the final document to Bookman Old Style, but go back and deal with any formatting changes.
- 3) Every page and every paragraph should be numbered (each separate argument should have a separate heading as well).
- 4) After naming the parties, the first paragraph should be a statement of the issue (explain the proposition).
- 5) The purpose is to present a persuasive argument to the judge regarding the appropriate topic.
- 6) Every assertion of fact should be cited unless it is common knowledge. If the fact is not cited, it may be ignored. Citation method is discretionary (see Syllabus), but should be consistent. Briefs and cases tend to use embedded (usually pinpoint) citations with a list of cited authority either at the beginning or end. Legal journals tend to footnote sources with a bibliography at the end. Over citation is almost impossible. But try to make sure to put information in your own words. While 1-3 sentences might be quoted, large blocks of text should not be used unless absolutely necessary. In this rare instance, block indent and single space the quotation.

8) You should use at least 5 sources; all sources should be reputable and easily accessible to other students. Blogs/wikipedia/encyclopedias do not count as reputable sources.

9) First person statements or "in my opinion" statements should be avoided -- no "I", "my" or "we". Contractions should be avoided as well.

10) The paper should end with a Conclusion and a Prayer to the Court. (If after reviewing the below material, you still don't know what this means, ask for further explanation.)

11) A list of articles, books, cases, and statutes cited should be presented.

12) The paper should be a minimum of 10 pages and probably no more than 20. The Cover Page and list of citations do not count in those totals.

13) If you have any confusion about your topic, please discuss with me. The ones for which this seems to be a common problem are the ones on "death penalty qualified jury" and "politically active judges".

A sample form for the brief might be (but is not required to be) as follows:

**Topic 99: A person should err on the side of over citation rather than under citation, and STUDENT's improper citation should be punished.**

**Authority** (*you might also indicate page numbers where cited in the brief*):

- Hanley, Rebekah, *The Legal Writer: Notes on Quotes: When and How to Borrow Language*, 71 Or. St. B. Bull. 13, The Oregon State Bar, February/March 2011 (accessed via LexisNexis May 16, 2011)
- Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C 106
- Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc., 464. U.S. 417 (1984)

**Statement of Arguments**

- 1) Using someone else's words as your own is unethical.
- 2) Even if someone else's content may be used under the fair use doctrine, the material must be cited.
- 3) If too much material is copied, a violation of the United States copyright laws may occur.

*(Note: a person could be lazy and write those as follows:*

- 1) *It is unethical to use someone's words as your own.*
- 2) *It is important to cite information even if it is being used under the fair use doctrine.*
- 3) *It may be a violation of United States copyright laws to copy too much material.*

*Please try to avoid using IT in this fashion. It is simply lazy. [Irony intended])*

**Facts** (*some topics may have actual facts [Marbury v. Madison in Topics 1&2, for example]; others may have statistical or exemplary facts.*)

**Arguments**

*(Present each of the arguments (stated above) as a separate heading with authority, logic, and examples to support same.)*

**Conclusion**

*(Summarize your arguments with persuasive punch.)*

**Prayer**

Example 1: WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner requests that the Court Order that STUDENT should be punished and receive a grade of F for improper citation, and for such other and further relief to which Petitioner may be entitled in equity and in law.

Example 2: Considering the foregoing arguments, Petitioner requests that the Court rule in her favor and grant her request that STUDENT receive a grade of F for improper citation.

## **Grading Rubric**

### Content:

75 points – 7 points deducted for every major argument omitted or inadequately addressed.

### Writing:

25 points – earned as each of the following are judged on a 5 pt scale:

- 1) Clear and persuasive.
- 2) Arguments are supported with reasons, evidence, and examples.
- 3) Organized and unified.
- 4) Sources are correctly documented and cited.
- 5) Grammar, punctuation, spelling, layout, and word choice are proper and free from errors.