

Legal Research and Writing
REQ.7123.04
Fall Term 2023
Professor Greg Johnson

Readings and Activities for the First Week

Dear students, We will have a busy first week in Legal Research and Writing. In addition to our two classes, you will attend one mandatory training session for Westlaw (online legal research) and one mandatory training session for Lexis (same). Below you will see the required readings for our two classes and your options for the Westlaw/Lexis training sessions. The training sessions will take place on Teams.

Welcome to Vermont Law and Graduate School, and see you soon in class!

Tuesday, August 29

An introduction to American legal systems

A Lawyer Writes, 15-22 (Sources of Law) (through “Weave a Tapestry”)

Researching the Law, 3-7 (Introduction to Legal Research)

Constitution of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (on Canvas)

The Bluebook, review ix-xvi (Table of Contents), read 1-4 (Introduction and Rule B1.1) and Rules B11 and 11

Assignments:

1. In a paragraph of 100-150 words, compare/contrast the Preambles of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
Due on Sunday, September 3, by 11:59 pm (upload to Canvas)
2. Install (free to you) Microsoft Office 365 from VLGS’s IT website if you do not already have it.

Westlaw and Lexis Training Schedule – Fall 2023

J.D. students should attend *one* Westlaw and *one* Lexis training session.

Westlaw Training Option 1

Monday, August 28, 2023 5:00 – 6:00 pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

OR

Westlaw Training Option 2

Wednesday, August 30, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Lexis Training Option 1

Tuesday, August 29, 2023 5:00 – 6:00 pm

OR

Lexis Training Option 2

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Thursday, August 31

Hierarchies of authority; legal research process

A Lawyer Writes, 22-28 (Systems of Law)

Researching the Law, 21-26 (Defining a Research Question)

Legal Research Process Chart (on Canvas)

United States v. Cooley, ___ U.S. ___, 141 S. Ct. 1638 (2020). (on Canvas)