Legal Research and Writing  
Summer 2023  
Professor Greg Johnson

Readings and Activities for the First Week (and beyond)

Dear students,

Welcome to Vermont Law and Graduate School! We will have a busy first week in Legal Research and Writing. We have our regularly scheduled classes on Monday and Wednesday, plus a make-up class on Friday morning (to make up for Memorial Day). As a heads-up, in the second week of class we will have research training sessions for Westlaw (Monday, June 5, from 9:00-10:00 am) and Lexis (Wednesday, June 7, from 9:00-10:00 am). These sessions are in addition to our regularly scheduled classes on those days. The sessions occur in the same room as our class (Oakes 210).

Here is the schedule for the first week:

Wednesday, May 31 (10:30-11:45 a.m.)

An introduction to American legal systems  
_A Lawyer Writes_, 15-22 (Sources of Law) (through “Weave a Tapestry”)  
Legal Research, An Introduction  
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. Install (free to you) Microsoft Office 365 from VLS’s IT website if you do not already have it.

2. 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, June 4, by 11:59 pm (upload to Canvas)

Friday, June 2 (make-up class at 9:00-10:15 a.m.)

Hierarchies of authority; an introduction to _stare decisis_; legal research process  
_A Lawyer Writes_, 22-31 (Systems of law)  
Legal Research Process Chart (on Canvas)  
_The Bluebook_, Rules B2, B10.1.1, 10.2, and Table 6 (Case names in citations)
Friday, June 2 (regular class at 10:30-11:45 a.m.)

Reading and researching statutes

* A Lawyer Writes, 33-43 (Reading statutes)

Researching Statutes

United States Constitution, Art. VI, cl. 2 (Supremacy Clause)


*The Bluebook*, Rules B.12.1.1, 12.1-12.3.2 (Citing statutes)