

Presenter:

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# Laying the Foundation: Effective Pedagogy for Introduction to Legal Studies

**Establish Clear Expectations Early:** Students should understand learning outcomes, grading criteria, and classroom behavior from day one.



[Sample Syllabus](#)



Weighted Grades



Makeup Policy



Artificial  
Intelligence

# Use Real-World Legal Scenarios:

## Applying case law, contracts, or legal research exercises enhances understanding.

- ◆ “Two Guys Walk Into a Bar” --- Lucy v. Zehmer
  - ◆ Storytelling to link common knowledge to legal elements of contract law.
- ◆ Legal research is not just Westlaw or Lexis.
  - ◆ Live time “look that up” – w/real-time fact-checking.
    - ◆ Require two corroborating sources.
    - ◆ Example: Ohio v. Wilson (Tort v. Crime) – What is allocution? What does the Ohio Criminal Rule 32(a) say?

years to life in prison.

{¶ 9} Appellant timely perfected an appeal to this court, and presents two assignments of error for our review, as follows:

I. THE TRIAL COURT COMMITS REVERSIBLE ERROR BY IMPOSING SENTENCE WITHOUT FIRST ASKING THE DEFENDANT WHETHER HE WISHES TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF ALLOCUTION CREATED BY [CRIM. R. 32\(A\)](#).

II. THE TRIAL COURT ERRED WHEN IT ENTERED JUDGMENT AGAINST THE DEFENDANT WHEN THE EVIDENCE WAS INSUFFICIENT TO SUSTAIN A CONVICTION AND WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE MANIFEST WEIGHT OF THE EVIDENCE.

{¶ 10} With respect to appellant's first assignment of error, the state concedes that the trial court failed to provide appellant with the opportunity to exercise his right of allocution. The record so reflects. Accordingly, appellant's



# Incorporate Interactive Learning: Role-playing, debates, and collaborative assignments improve engagement.

Character: Mediator

Scenario:

Beth Richmond and Austin Roberts were best friends in high school and subsequently followed one another to college at the University of Richmond. After graduation, both parties decided to move in together and co-own a residence located at 1234 Main Street, Richmond, VA 23223 as an investment property. Beth and Austin both put \$50,000 of their own money towards the down payment. Additionally, they enjoyed the personal property that belonged to one another during their 5 years of residency at that address. Now, their friendship has come to an end and they're here to mediate a settlement agreement where both parties are left satisfied. They have sold the house and will both maintain separate residences. Here are some items in dispute:

1. Proceeds from the sale of the home (\$120,000).
2. 2018 Volkswagen Jetta (valued at \$7,000).
3. Security deposit with Dominion Utilities- (\$500).
4. Custody of two purebred pit-bulls (valued at \$1000 each).
5. Original Dale Chihuly blown glass piece of art (valued at \$2,500).

Settlement Chart

Item:	Monetary Value:	Ownership:
Proceeds from the sale of the home	\$120,000	
2018 Volkswagen Jetta	\$7,000	
Security deposit with Dominion Utilities	\$500	
Custody of Two purebred pit-bull	\$1,000 (Maisy) \$1,000 (Daisy)	
Original Dale Chihuly blown glass piece of art	\$2,500	

Signed and agreed to this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

/s/ _____ Beth Richmond	/s/ _____ Austin Roberts
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/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mediator

# Balance Theory with Practical Application:

Legal studies should integrate knowledge with skills like drafting documents and legal analysis.

## Focus Paragraph Reflection Writing

Published

Assign To

Edit

⋮

Using the FOCUS paragraph method, I'd like to hear your reflections on this course so far. Remember, the first sentence of a focus paragraph is an assertion. It is a statement that you will spend the remainder of the paragraph supporting.

AECECC

(Assertion) (Evidence) (Commentary) (Evidence) (Commentary) (Conclusion)

Here's an anonymous short survey to spark some elements of the course you may wish to write about.

[First, complete the survey.](#)

Then, summarize your evaluation in the form of a focused paragraph and drop it below.

Points 10

Submitting a text entry box

Due

Apr 6

## Class Activity: Billable Time

Published

Assign To

Edit

⋮

In the lecture this week we discuss billing time and some tips for legal billing. During our LIVE time together we'll practice using the following template. If you're unable to attend LIVE, be sure that you review the recorded version. You will be responsible for submitting your work by the deadline regardless of your attendance at the live session.

[Billing Practice.docx](#)

Points 20

Submitting a file upload

# Teach Ethical Considerations from the Start:

Reinforce professionalism, confidentiality, and ethical dilemmas in legal practice.

Dear Ms. Rozario:

I have received your motion for relief on behalf of your client, Virginia Credit Union. However, your submission was untimely and exceeded the deadline for such petitions before this Court.

Given the procedural lapse, I require a compelling justification for this delay, particularly in light of your client's request for injunctive relief. The failure to adhere to court-imposed deadlines is a serious matter, and I expect a thorough explanation as to why this Court should entertain your motion despite its untimeliness.

Your prompt response is expected.

Melissa Ansley Brooks  
Presiding Judge

**Melissa Ansley Brooks**

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Dear Judge Brooks,

I sincerely apologize for the delay in submitting the motion. Unfortunately, I experienced technical difficulties with Canvas and was unable to log in. Once the issue was resolved, I submitted the motion promptly.

I appreciate the Court's consideration and regret any inconvenience this may have caused. Please let me know if any further clarification is needed.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Rozario

Dear Ms. Rozario,

The Court acknowledges your explanation regarding the delayed submission of the motion. While technical difficulties can be unforeseen and unavoidable, it remains the responsibility of all parties to anticipate and address potential issues in a timely manner to ensure compliance with procedural deadlines.

That said, the Court appreciates your prompt action in resolving the matter and submitting the motion as soon as access was restored. Moving forward, I encourage you to establish contingency measures to prevent similar delays.

No further clarification is required at this time. The motion will be reviewed in due course.

Respectfully,  
Judge Brooks

Melissa Ansley Brooks  
**Associate Professor**

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WHERE OUTSTANDING PARALEGALS GET STARTED



# Encourage Student Inquiry and Debate:

Critical thinking is essential; create a space where students feel comfortable questioning legal principles.

## Scenario: Work-from-Home Requests

### The Story:

Ramesh works at a company that requires employees to work in the office every day. He asks if he can work from home two days a week because he gets more done in a quiet environment. His boss says no, because that's the company rule.

## Scenario: The Apartment Parking Rule

### The Story:

Mark lives in an apartment complex with a rule that says only one car per tenant is allowed in the parking lot. Mark just bought a second car for work, but the landlord says he can't park it in the lot. Mark argues that there are plenty of open spaces and that the rule is outdated.

## Judicial Restraint vs. Judicial Activism

### Restraint

*Judges should:*

- ✓look to the original Intent of the Constitution
- ✓Look at the intent of the legislators that wrote the law
- ✓Respectful of precedents
- ✓Argue that changes to the Constitution can only be made thru the Amendment process

### Activism

*Judges should:*

- ✓Look beyond the original intent of the Framers
- ✓“Living Constitution” (changes over time)
- ✓Active action is necessary and appropriate at times
- ✓Can be involved in interpreting and enlarging laws



# Provide Frequent Feedback: Timely and constructive feedback fosters student improvement and confidence.

You are my teaching assistant. You're providing positive feedback to students who submitted a discussion board post related to active listening. Here's the directions: Active Listening through Discussion

Resolving disputes requires active listening and that can be hard. One great skill that every negotiator needs is empathy-- the ability to understand someone else's point of view, even if you don't agree. This exercise is meant to deepen our understanding of each other. These question prompts can be as personal as you make them, but I encourage you to be vulnerable, respectful, and appropriate in your replies. The idea is to read and summarize BACK to your classmate what you have heard.

I will give you the student's reply one at a time. Limit your response to a paragraph and use a casual but professional tone that is vulnerable an empathetic. Are you ready to begin?

I'm ready! Send me the first student's response, and I'll craft a thoughtful and encouraging reply.

## AI Contract Drafting Rubric

Criteria	Ratings					Pts
	5 pts	4 pts	3 pts	2 pts	1 pts	
Define the Parties and Purpose	Full Marks	Almost there.	Oops, I missed quite a bit.	Messed up on this, but never will again.	I did the bare minimum.	5 pts
Clarity of Identification: Identifies the contracting parties (e.g., "Party A" and "Party B") and specifies their roles. Purpose Description: Clearly describes the purpose of the contract, summarizing key terms and conditions.						



## Final Petition

### Grading Rubric and Feedback:

Total Points Available:

129

Points You Earned:

Your Score: \_\_\_\_\_

### What you did well:

Voluntary Petition	Credit Counseling	Real Property	Personal Property	Exemptions
Secured Claims	Unsecured Claims	Executory Contracts	Income	Expenses
Statement of Financial Affairs	Overall attention to detail	Timely and complete submission of schedules	Showing improvement from past mistakes	Other:

### What you need to work on:

Voluntary Petition	Credit Counseling Certificates	Real Property	Personal Property	Exemptions
Secured Claims	Unsecured Claims	Executory Contracts	Income	Expenses
Statement of Financial Affairs	Overall attention to detail	Timely and complete submission of schedules	Showing improvement from past mistakes	Other:

**Were critical errors present that would have resulted in loss of property, miscalculation of filing eligibility or loss of other assets to your client?**

☐ YES (-5 points) ☐ NO (+5 points)

**Does your petition meet filing standards for acceptance in the United States Bankruptcy Court?**

☐ YES (+5 points) ☐ NO (-5 points)

# Utilize Diverse Teaching Methods:

Blend lectures, multimedia resources, case studies, and interactive learning to reach different learning styles.

## ◆ Effective Prompt Questions for Live Lectures:

- ◆ Who can say it better?
- ◆ Who can translate what they heard?
- ◆ What did I miss?
- ◆ How can we add to that?
- ◆ What should we take away?

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- Distinguish primary binding, primary persuasive and secondary sources
- Evidence basic Westlaw search capabilities
- Conduct general searching through queries and reports using PACER
- Evidence basic eDiscovery search and find pdf data analysis



### Learning Content

Lecture

Lecture Sources

Readings

Podcasts

Videos



**Let's Talk Legal Research: Why it's important, how to**

Dec 6 · Ladies Who Law

Save on Spotify

38:29



### Activities

- [Westlaw Review](#)
- [Project: eDiscovery](#)
- [Homework: PACER](#)
- [Low Stakes Quiz on Legal Authorities- Match 'em!](#)

# Mentor and Inspire Students: Build relationships that encourage students to pursue excellence and professional growth.

## Active Listening through Discussion

45 Replies, 23 Unread

Resolving disputes requires active listening and that can be hard. One great skill that every negotiator needs is empathy-- *the ability to understand someone else's point of view, even if you don't agree*. This exercise is meant to deepen our understanding of each other. These question prompts can be as personal as you make them, but I encourage you to be vulnerable, respectful, and appropriate in your replies. **Please use 1-3 (or all) of the prompts below to post a reply. Then, reply to at least one of your classmate's posts. The idea is to read and summarize BACK to your classmate what you have heard.**

### Example:

Original post: One person that I respect very much is my mother. She is no longer living but I respect the way she moved through the world. She was always so patient, forgiving, and kind to everyone she met. She didn't judge people and always sought to make them feel heard and understood. In my life, I have come to understand that there are two sides to every story--good and bad. Even if I feel like I was wronged in some way by another person, I had a part to play in that. I strive to acknowledge my role in things when the outcome isn't what I had hoped for.

Reply post to a classmate's post: I understand that your mother was influential in your life and someone you respected very much even though she's no longer alive. The traits that you respect the most about her are her patience, non-judgmental views, ability to forgive, and kindness toward everyone she meets. You tend to give people the benefit of the doubt, understanding that there are various sides to every situation. You also seek to understand your role in situations, even if it results in an unfavorable outcome.

### Question prompts to use:

- 1) Who is one person you really respect, living or dead? Why do you respect them?
- 2) What are some ways you show respect for yourself?
- 3) Describe a time you "did the right thing," even though it was hard to do.
- 4) What is something you've learned in your life that has been important to you? Why was it important?
- 5) What is something you've done that you're proud of? Why?
- 6) What are some things you want to do in your life? Why?



# Let's keep in touch.

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- ◇ [Digital Teaching Profile](#)
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