

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW

## 9200:610 General Writing Requirement (“GWR”)

### Standard Requirements

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The General Writing Requirement is a 0 credit hour course required for graduation. This course may be repeated and is graded credit/non-credit. Listed below are standards that must be fulfilled in order to receive credit.

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#### Synopsis:

The GWR should be viewed as a minor thesis. It must demonstrate both a capacity for scholarly research and creative intellectual effort, and satisfy high standards of prose composition. Capacity for scholarly research is demonstrated by making an original contribution to knowledge of the law or giving significant critical commentary. Papers must conform to requirements set out below unless the instructor approves an alternative form appropriate to the project.

The skills and capacities that a research project is designed to foster are:

1. Thoroughness in the discovery of available data;
2. Accuracy in the citation of sources and compliance with formal requirements;
3. A high level of prose composition;
4. Understanding of the ideas and theories appearing in the research data;
5. Creative intellectual effort in the form of analysis and organization of the research data;
6. Demonstration of the capacity for critical judgment of ideas, theories, and generalization of subject matter, including the capacity to advance proposed solutions to problems present by the research.

#### Grade Requirement:

The paper must be of sufficient quality to earn at least a grade of “B”. Although the student may also earn a letter grade for the course, the GWR grade will be “Credit” or “Non-Credit”. Therefore, for example, the grade report would appear something like:

9200:610	General Writing Requirement	0	“CREDIT”
9200:650	Employment Law	3	“A”

#### Page Length:

The paper must have a minimum length of thirty (30) pages.

#### Requirements for Earning GWR:

1. The GWR must be satisfied in conjunction with a course other than Individual Studies and Research (ISR) unless the Associate Dean determines that no course on an appropriate subject is available to the student. If such a course is available but the instructor does not offer GWR credit in conjunction with it, the student may satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR if the student has already taken or is taking the course. If such a course is not available, the student may satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR alone. For purposes of this rule, a course is not available if (1) it is not to be offered before the student is expected to graduate; (2) the student is unable to enroll in it because the enrollment limit has been reached and it is not to be offered again before the student is expected to graduate; or (3) for other reasons of an unusual and compelling nature, the student is unable to take the seminar or other course.
2. The Associate Dean shall be the instructor of record for ISR, and shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that responsibility for supervising GWR papers is distributed equitably among the members of the Law Faculty.

### Requirements Prior to Submitting the Final Paper:

1. The initiative in the choice of a topic is to be exercised by the student enrolled for credit. The topic, however, must be approved by the instructor of record.

The topic should be sufficiently well articulated and delimited as to permit, in the limited number of credits that may be earned, the study of a topic in depth, in preference to an allusive, discursive, or comprehensive treatment.

2. After approval, the student should prepare a short outline statement of the proposed research project. The outline statement should provide an articulation of the student's thesis, problem or issue, a summation of the argument or authorities that the student will marshal in support of the thesis or solution to the problem or resolution of the issue, and, finally, a conclusion evaluatory in nature.
3. At least one draft of the paper must precede final submission. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, the first draft must be submitted one month before the due date for the final version.

Most papers should endeavor to state a thesis or hypothesis (the "what"), the argument in support of the position (the "why"), and finally, ideas, theories, and generalization concerning the subject matter, including a critique (the "so what").

### Paper:

The project must be printed on good quality, white bond, letter-sized (8-1/2" x 11") paper.

### Typing:

Copy must be clean, fully legible, letter quality print, and accurately proofread. Symbols and diagrams must be accurately and cleanly drawn.

### Spacing:

The text must be double-spaced

Footnotes must be single-spaced and placed in numerical sequence, at the end of the paper or at the bottom of the page.

### Margins:

A margin of one and one-half inches (1-1/2 inches) must be left at the left-hand side and at the top of each page. There must be a margin of at least one inch (1 inch) at the right-hand side and the bottom of each page. Only one side of the paper may be used.

### Pagination:

The Title Page is not numbered. Each page thereafter is to be numbered in Arabic numerals continuously throughout the paper (including appendices, exhibits, or other materials that appear at the end). The only pages counted toward the 30 page minimum are text and footnotes.

### Title Page:

The Title Page must conform to the sample attached.

## Style:

Although appropriate in other contexts, the style of the legal memorandum or brief is inappropriate for the paper. Rather, the student should consult leading articles in leading law reviews written by eminent scholars in the field of law for samples of appropriate style.

## Citations:

Students must use a recognized form of legal citation (i.e., ALWD, Bluebook). The use of ALWD citation form is preferred.

## Special Note on Quotations and Citations: Avoidance of Plagiarism:

The writer must scrupulously avoid plagiarizing the words and ideas of others. Therefore, in his or her research, the writer should carefully include all cited materials upon which he or she relies, and should carefully delineate his or her ideas and words from the ideas and words of others.

Plagiarism may appear in several forms. Copying, in whole or in part, the work or words of another (whether or not copyrighted) is a form of plagiarism, unless the writer both cites the source of the material and indicates direct quotations.

The use of exact words of another, without the use of quotations marks or the equivalent, constitutes plagiarism, even though the source of the words may be cited correctly.

Passing off as one's own the ideas of another is another form of plagiarism. When the ideas but not the exact words of another are used, full credit must be given by an appropriate citation. In other words, paraphrasing the work or works of another without proper citation to the source constitutes plagiarism.

Keep careful records of your research to ensure that you have all ideas attributed to the proper authority and all direct quotations or paraphrases accurately indicated and cited to source and page.

For more information go to <http://www.uakron.edu/law/library/usefullinks.php#plagiarism>

## Due Date:

1. The student must propose a topic to and receive its approval by the supervising faculty member no later than July 5<sup>th</sup> of his or her last year in law school if the student is expected graduate in December or October 15<sup>th</sup> of his or her last year in law school if the student is expected to graduate in May.
2. A student who intends to satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR alone, as provided in paragraph (1) above, must enroll in ISR no later than the semester before is or her last semester in law school unless the Associate Dean determines that the unavailability of a course on an appropriate subject resulted from a change in circumstances that was not reasonably foreseeable by the student until it was too late for the student to comply with this requirement.
3. GWR papers must be submitted to the supervising faculty member for grading no later than November 15<sup>th</sup> if the student intends to graduate in December of the same year or March 31<sup>st</sup> if the student intends to graduate in May of the same year.
4. In unusual and compelling circumstances for which the student cannot reasonably be held responsible, the Associate Dean may waive the deadlines specified above.

Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, the GWR paper will be due the Monday of Reading Period in the term in which the course was taken. Since there is no Reading Period for Summer Session classes, the paper will be due on the Monday one week before the Summer class is over.

## DUE DATE SUMMARY

	Enrollment	Topic Approval	Due Date
Non-Seniors	At least 1 semester prior to planned graduation	At Instructor's request	Monday of Reading Period in same semester course was taken; Summer Session papers due Monday 1 week before end of Summer Session
December Graduates	Spring Semester prior to December graduation	July 5 <sup>th</sup> prior to December graduation	November 15 <sup>th</sup> prior to December graduation
May Graduates	Fall Semester prior to May graduation	October 15 <sup>th</sup> prior to May graduation	March 31 <sup>st</sup> prior to May graduation

### Research and Writing Guides:

The official guides established by these Regulations are:

ALWD Citation Manual, A Professional System of Citation (latest edition).

Turabian, K.A., A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations.

The Turabian work provides guidelines when ALWD is silent; therefore, if there is a conflict between the two guides, ALWD will control.

Helpful to the writer are the following:

Fowler, H.G., A Dictionary of Modern English Usage (latest edition);

Garner, B.A., The Elements of Legal Style (latest edition)

Roget, S.M. (Ed.), Thesaurus (latest edition);

Strunk, Wm., Jr., and White, E.B., The Elements of Style (1962).

For examples of outstanding articles see F. Shapiro, The Most-Cited Law Review Articles (1987).

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-Adopted by the Law Faculty, May 14, 1992  
Effective Summer Session I 1992  
-Adopted by the Law Faculty, September 9, 1993  
Effective Spring 1994  
-Adopted by the Law Faculty, March 14, 2002  
Effective Summer I 2002

The University of Akron School of Law

“The Impact of the Miranda Case  
on the Admissions of  
Confessions in Felony Cases  
in the State Courts”

Wendy A. Wills

Student ID#: 1234567

9200:610 General Writing Requirement

This GWR was taken with elective course:	<u>Seminar in Criminal Justice</u>
Instructor of Record:	<u>Professor Larry E. Litigator</u>
Semester of Enrollment:	<u>Fall 2002 Semester</u>
Submission Date:	<u>November 15, 2002</u>