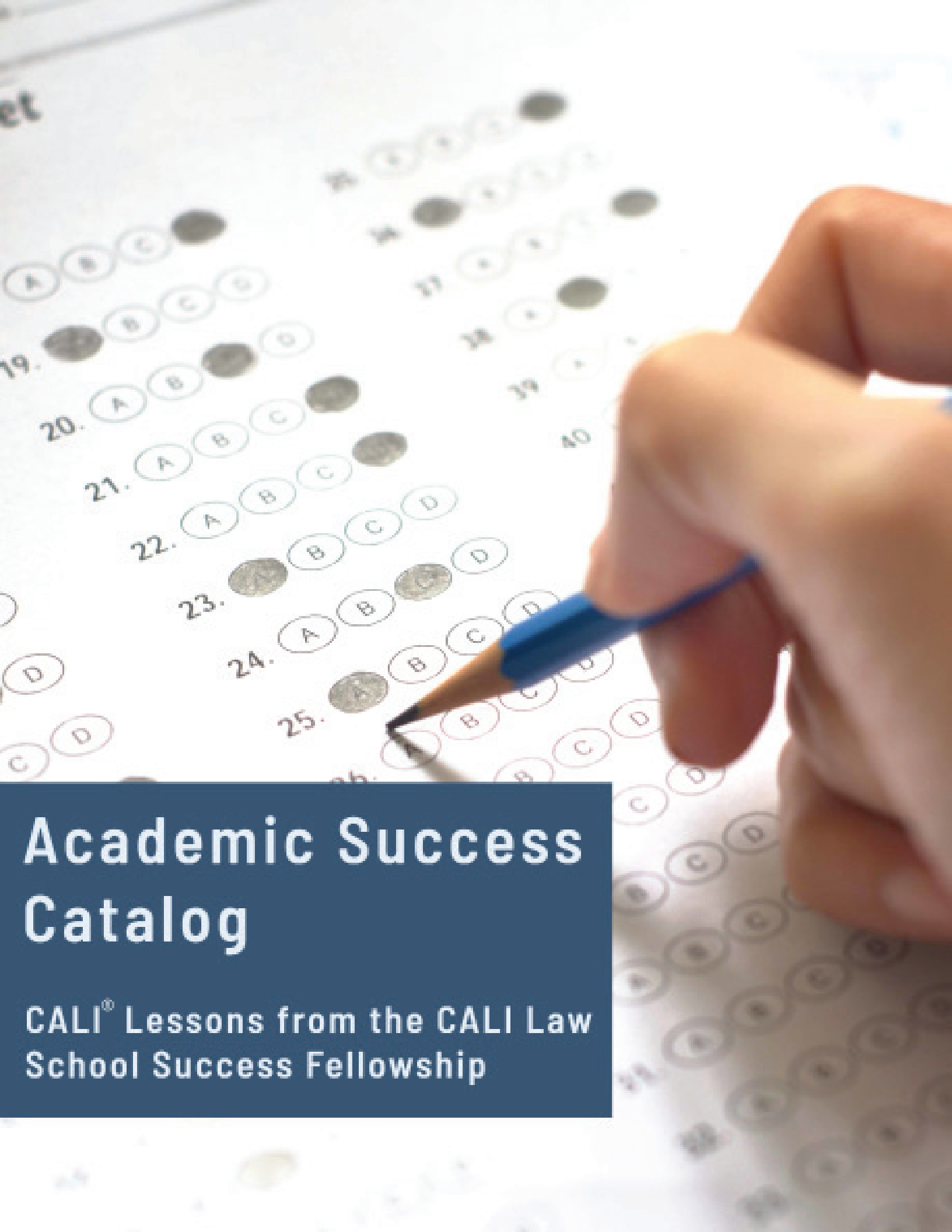

Academic Success Catalog

CALI® Lessons from the CALI Law School Success Fellowship

Getting started with Law School Success Lessons

The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) created the Law School Success Fellowship comprised of members of the academic success community from U.S. law schools. The goal of the Fellowship is to author CALI lessons to develop students' critical-thinking skills and provide students with the meta-skills needed to succeed in law school. The materials are peer-reviewed by the Fellowship team and the CALI Editorial Board.

The lessons are broken out into five categories:

- Foundation - What Everyone Assumes I Know
- Class Prep - Before, During, After
- Exams - Preparing and Attacking
- Reflection - Maintain or Improve on Prior Performance
- Bar Prep

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ABOUT CALI® LESSONS

CALI Lessons are written by experienced law professors who assimilate their extensive classroom teaching experience into interactive dialogues within the lessons. Students are presented with text to read that introduces and explains a legal topic. This is followed by a hypothetical situation and then various types of questions to challenge the student's understanding of the topic.

Why Should I use CALI Lessons?

CALI Lessons provide immediate feedback to students so that they can gauge their progress and understanding of a legal topic. CALI Lessons include questions throughout the tutorials. Such immediate assessment has been shown to be highly effective in knowledge retention.

In addition to student self-assessment, faculty using CALI's LessonLink tool can view students' scores and responses, which turns the lessons into a formative assessment tool. CALI Author™ is available and free for faculty at member and affiliated schools to use to edit existing CALI Lessons or to create new ones. Lessons can be written and posted online with access limited to your students. Lessons can be used to "flip" the classroom, assigned to students, or worked through as an in-class exercise.

Law School Success Lessons

Lessons are intended to support students in their development of critical-thinking skills and provide students with the meta-skills needed to succeed in law school.

Foundation - What Everyone Assumes I Know

- A Good Place to Start.... Depends on Where you are Beginning (LSS33) (Law School Success Lessons Overview & Finding Tool)
- Common Law Basics: What Faculty May Assume You Know (LSS20)
- Analysis 1: Thinking Like a Lawyer (LSS04)
- Time Management: Creating Your Plan (LSS09)
- Words Matter (LSS22)
- Metacognition (LSS03)
- Don't Compartmentalize! Transfer is the Key to Law School Success (LSS28)
- Law School Resources (LSS15)

Class Prep - Before, During, After

- Preparing for Class 101: Preparing for Your First Day of Class (LSS34)
- Case Briefing (LSS13)
- Excavating Facts from Cases (LSS16)
- Finding the Rule (LSS21)
- Introduction to Rule Synthesis (LSS10)
- Note-Taking in Law School 101: Case-Based Content (LSS14)
- Note-Taking in Law School 101: The Basics (LSS08)
- Secrets to Improved Memorization (LSS27)
- Help, I'm Zoning Out (LSS35)
- Study Groups: Best Practices (LSS29)

Exams - Preparing and Attacking

- Legal Writing v. Exam Writing (LSS24)
- Attacking Exams (LSS19)
- Outlining Basics (LSS17)
- IRAC (LSS01)
- Creating Study Aids (LSS02)
- Reading Comprehension Strategies for Exams (LSS23)
- Issue Spotting (LSS12)
- Hyped about Hypos (LSS25)
- Analysis 2: The "A" in IRAC: Application and Analysis (LSS06)
- A Methodical Approach to Improve Multiple Choice Performance (LSS05)
- Multiple-Choice Questions: Wrong Answer Pathology (LSS11)
- Mechanics of Memorization (LSS18)

Reflection - Maintain or Improve on Prior Performance

- Grit, Growth, and Why it matters. Or, how to be gritty! (LSS30)
- Mindfulness Practice for Law School (LSS31)
- Assessing Your Own Work (LSS07)
- How to Learn from Exams (LSS26)
- Semester Self-Assessment & Reflection (LSS32)

Bar Prep

- Passing the Bar: A Quick Reference Guide For Today's Law Student (a Free resource from eLangdell Press® to prepare you to study and pass the bar)

A Good Place To Start ... Depends On Where You Are Beginning!

Whether you are new to law school or have made it through a few semesters, there are always ways to improve your process and performance. This lesson uses your answers to help you determine the best CALI Law School Success lessons to help you meet your goals and tailors the advice depending on where you are in your law school career.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify areas of concern.
2. Create a list of possible CALI lessons to address academic success weaknesses.
3. Revisit this lesson as law school career progresses and new challenges arise.

Analysis 1: Thinking Like a Lawyer

This lesson explores one of the fundamental lawyering skills, which is to think like a lawyer, or analyze. Students will go through basic analysis exercises, so they can master this technique prior to writing exams.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the concept of "thinking like a lawyer."
2. Apply analytical skills to their reading, briefing, and eventually essay writing.

Analysis 2: The "A" in IRAC: Application and Analysis

First-year law students often understand the law and know the right conclusion, but struggle to apply the law thoroughly in order to maximize their scores. This lesson is designed to help law students who may have received feedback that their analysis is conclusory.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Sort facts to law.

Assessing Your Own Work

Throughout law school, students will be asked to assess their own essays by comparing them to a model or sample student answer provided by their professor. It can often be difficult to distinguish one's work from the model. Sometimes it is hard to distinguish what a student knows, from what they wrote down. Experienced legal writers understand that subtle differentiation in language changes the meaning of what was written. This lesson will provide students with strategies for self-assessment, so that they can become critical judges of their work, and consequently precise legal writers.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify concrete deficiencies in essay answers.
2. Critically assess written work in comparison to a model or sample answer.
3. Revise their written work based on engagement with a model or sample answer.

Attacking Exams

This lesson will teach you the best ways to prepare for exams, and the best ways to organize your response on the day of your exam.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the best ways to prepare for exams.
2. Organize and outline before writing an exam.
3. Apply techniques to better organize their time on exams.

Case Briefing

This lesson focuses on case briefing. The lesson will guide students through cases identifying the most important part of cases to prepare for classes.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify different parts of a case brief.
2. Categorize different parts of a judicial opinion into a case brief.
3. Restate the legally significant facts from a case.
4. Restate the legal rules in a case.
5. Identify or construct the holding of the opinion.

Common Law Basics: What Faculty May Assume You Know

A basic introduction (or refresher!) about sources of law, court structure, and precedent.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify different sources of law.
2. Understand the hierarchy of authority.
3. Distinguish between binding and persuasive case law.

Creating Study Aids

Creating Study Aids is part of the Academic Support series of CALI Lessons. This lesson introduces you to law school study aids. It begins with a brief overview of self-regulated learning and Bloom's learning taxonomy. Then, the lesson introduces law school study aids by pairing them with learning objectives at each level of the taxonomy. Finally, the lesson concludes with an activity designed to help you reflect on your learning. It can be used as an introduction, supplement, or as review.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the relationship between self-regulated learning, metacognition, and Bloom's taxonomy and your learning.
2. Create study aids to help you remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate and create important law school concepts.
3. Reflect on your learning.

Don't Compartmentalize! Transfer is the Key to Law School Success

One of the best ways to learn and remember something is to connect it to something that you already know. Once you have made that connection, it becomes easier to use the new information, because you are connecting it to something that you already understand. Making these connections is called transfer. You can transfer vertically (i.e. from one topic in criminal law to another, or from Contracts 1 to Contracts 2), or you can transfer horizontally from course to course (i.e. from contracts to criminal law).

During law school, it will be helpful to build frameworks for what you learn, so that you can fit new concepts into those frameworks. This will not only enhance your understanding of the doctrine, but also your ability to apply what you learn to new factual scenarios and new doctrinal areas. To be most effective, these frameworks should not only incorporate knowledge and skills from a single class, but across classes.

This lesson seeks to introduce you to the concept of transfer (taking a concept from one place and using it in another place) so that you can begin to incorporate it into your legal studies.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of transfer of knowledge and skills across law school classes.
2. Identify concrete steps that will aid in their own ability to transfer their knowledge and academic/lawyering skills across legal doctrines.
3. Transfer a concept or skill from one law school course to another.

Excavating Facts from Cases

This lesson will discuss ways to identify the legally significant facts within cases using pre-reading strategies.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Define legally significant facts.
2. Create context for cases using the textbook's table of contents and previous class discussions.
3. Identify legally significant facts in a court opinion.

Finding The Rule

The lesson introduces several common rule structures and tests recognition of each. The lesson challenges the student to recognize the rule of law as it appears in several cases.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the genesis and function of the rule of law in cases.
2. Explain the different structures and components of rules.
3. Learn to identify various rules in the body of a case.
4. Develop the ability to spot and sometimes distill the rule for inclusion in your case briefs and in preparation for class participation.

Grit, Growth, and Why it matters. Or, how to be gritty!

This lesson will teach you what grit and growth mind-set are, and why they are important for learning and mastering success, specifically as they pertain to law school.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Explain what grit and growth mindset are.
2. Explain why grit and growth mindset are important to success and law school.
3. Be able to implement growth mindset and grit into their daily routine.

Help! I am Zoning Out!

This lesson is designed to provide students with data about why their attention levels may dip during class or studying, including recent research regarding the effects of digital distractions on concentration. The lesson invites students to reflect upon the reasons they may lose focus and/or concentration while in class or while studying, and provides a robust set of strategies students can use to anticipate and control for that loss of focus, incorporating several free-writes.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Anticipate dips in attention and focus levels while studying or in class.
2. Diagnose and understand, based on scientific findings, when and why concentration wanes.
3. Develop tools to minimize "zoning out" and implement processes for working efficiently and productively throughout their legal careers.

How to Learn from Exams

This lesson explores one of the fundamental lawyering skills, which is self assessment. This lesson looks at how to learn from success and failures. Primarily, it focuses on what to do after a quiz, midterm, or final exam, and how to continue learning from those assessments.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Assess their strengths and weaknesses related to law school exams or other assessments.
2. Identify things to do post assessment to improve.

Hyped About Hypos

Law students often hear about the importance of "doing hypos" but don't know why they are important, where to find them, how to do them, and so on. This lesson will
cover the what, why, when, where, and how of hypos so law students can conquer the material they are learning and be prepared for exams.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Define the term "hypothetical" in the law school context.
2. List several reliable sources of hypotheticals.
3. Explain how to use hypotheticals to prepare for an exam.
4. Discuss why using hypotheticals is important for success in law school.

Introduction to Rule Synthesis

In law school, students are expected to read multiple cases to identify rules that will be applied on exams. Using non-law sources, students will learn how to extract individual rules from multiple articles to create one synthesized rule that can be used to solve new problems.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify factors and elements of the rule in specific cases.
2. Extract the rule from individual cases.
3. Create a synthesized rule using multiple cases.
4. Apply a synthesized rule to new cases to predict an outcome.

Issue Spotting

This lesson explores one of the fundamental lawyering skills, which is to be able to spot issues. This lesson looks at what an issue is, and best practices in spotting them in cases, with clients, and on exams. Students will go through basic issue spotting exercises to better prepare for exams.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Explain what "issue spotting" means.
2. Demonstrate the ability to spot issues using "attack outlines."
3. Demonstrate the ability to spot issues using facts.

IRAC

This lesson will cover the basic structure of written legal analysis: IRAC. IRAC stands for Issue, Rule, Application/Analysis, Conclusion. There are slightly different versions of IRAC which may be used for different legal documents. This lesson will focus on IRAC for essay exam writing. Some faculty may prefer CRAC, or CIRAC, where the conclusion is placed first.

You may also learn CRREAC for writing legal memos and briefs, which stands for Conclusion, Rule, Rule Explanation, Application, Conclusion. Make sure you know your professor's structural preferences regarding exams and other assignments. Whether you have the conclusion up front or not, all of legal analysis follows the same basic IRAC framework. It takes some getting used to, but once you understand how to properly work with the IRAC structure, you will be able to analyze any legal question.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the components of IRAC.
2. Classify what belongs in each section of IRAC.
3. Identify strong and weak examples of issue statements, rules, applications, and conclusions.
4. Compose basic legal analysis in written IRAC form.

Law School Resources

Law school will consume your life during the three or four years that you are enrolled. But that doesn't mean that life stops. Bills still have to be paid; people still get sick; the rest of the world keeps rolling on.

There will likely be a time during your legal education when you need help with something. The good news is that there are plenty of people available to help. You are not alone. Whatever you are going through, someone else has gone through too. It's important to reach out for help, so you can work through your problems, without hurting your academic performance.

This lesson will address what to do if you face a variety of academic and life issues. It will also get you to begin thinking about post-graduation planning.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify resources both at their law school and in their local legal community designed to support law students.
2. Recognize when they need to access resources, and how to do so.

Mechanics of Memorization

This lesson provides memorization tools and techniques for exam success. First, the lesson demonstrates the relationship between memorization and exam success. Next, the lesson explains memorization tools and techniques. After you complete this lesson you will be able to apply tools and techniques and effectively memorize important legal concepts to be successful on your exams.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the relationship between memorization and exam success.
2. Apply memorization tools and techniques.

Legal Writing v. Exam Writing

This lesson explains some key differences between legal writing and exam writing. First, the lesson demonstrates the relationship between legal writing and exam writing. Next, the lesson explains the differences between legal writing and exam writing. After you complete this lesson you will be able to transfer writing and analysis skills learned in your legal writing course to your final exams.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Illustrate the differences between legal writing and exam writing.
2. Use important writing and analysis skills in different formats.

Metacognition

This lesson focuses upon the concept of metacognition and teaches you how to enhance your understanding about how you learn to better improve your study, organizational, test-taking and self-assessment skills with the goal of improving your performance in law school.

The lesson should help you better understand your individual learning process and show you how to use this information to develop study and test-taking skills needed for success in law school.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Better understand how to develop your skills as a law school learner.
2. Create a schedule, and develop study strategies that work in tandem with this schedule, that helps you work more effectively and efficiently.
3. Assess your own work to better understand where you performed well, where you struggled, and how your study and test-taking strategies impacted your performance.

Mindfulness Practice for Law School

Law school creates a competitive environment with significantly more work than most undergraduate programs. The new expectations and environment increases anxiety and stress for many students. This lesson introduces basic skills to help students practice mindfulness and stay in the present despite the numerous stressors.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the basic practice of mindfulness.
2. Demonstrate basic mindfulness practice.
3. Use The Work of Byron Katie technique.
4. Construct a daily routine to integrate mindfulness practice.

A Methodical Approach to Improve Multiple Choice Performance

This lesson teaches a methodical approach for all law school multiple choice questions. The step-by-step approach provides a framework to work through questions so students can more easily eliminate distractor answer choices. The lesson will thoroughly explore each step in this analytical approach.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Recall the strategy for answering multiple choice questions.
2. Examine calls of the question for subject and small areas of law.
3. Locate dispositive facts from multiple choice fact patterns.
4. Formulate an answer prior to reading the answer choices.

Multiple-Choice Questions: Wrong Answer Pathology

This lesson teaches you how to select the right answer in a multiple-choice question by better understanding how to identify wrong answers, based on nine specific types of wrong answers.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the correct answer in a multiple-choice question.
2. Explain why wrong answer choices are incorrect.

Note-Taking in Law School 101: Case-Based Content

This lesson, intended for incoming and current 1L law students, guides participants through the process of note-taking in law school classes with a focus on case-based information. Using a series of cross-doctrinal audio lecture examples and integrating periodic checks for understanding, students have the opportunity to develop their note-taking skills and practice categorizing the pieces of case-based information. This lesson is equally suitable for full-time, part-time, evening, or remote law students.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and distinguish between core components of a case as both (a) explained by a professor in lecture format and (b) drawn out in professor-student colloquy.
2. Demonstrate the ability to make informed decisions/instinctual choices between being a stenographer in class versus taking notes, listening, and participating in class.
3. Demonstrate consistent and effective methods for capturing on paper the ambiguity in how courts and professors apply law to facts.
4. Recognize class as a part of the larger context of law school; gain comfort with lecture serving as both (a) a series of "episodic" additions to rule-building as well as (b) opportunities to practice speaking and writing in the language of the law.

Note-Taking in Law School 101: The Basics

This lesson will walk you through things to consider before setting "foot" (physically or virtually!) in a law school doctrinal classroom. You'll learn about how to listen for and capture the most important information, how to maximize your note-taking efficiency by using symbols and shorthand, and the various software options available for taking notes. It is recommended by the author that this lesson be completed before Note-Taking 101: Case-Based Content, which tests your note-taking skills in practice.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize how various note-taking methods can help students capture, organize, and process information from in-class live lectures and asynchronous lesson modules.
2. Experiment with a series of diagnostic questions to identify an individualized preliminary strategy with which to approach note-taking.
3. Evaluate, critique, and adjust their method as they gain more information about themselves as law students.

Outlining Basics

This lesson teaches you why, when and how to create outlines when preparing for your law school exams.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize the importance of outlines as a learning and test preparation tool in law school, thus making the outlining exercise more valuable.
2. Develop outlines during an optimum timeline.
3. Create outlines that offer the student a tool that improves comprehension, synthesis, and exam performance.

Preparing for Class 101: Preparing for Your First Day of Class

This lesson will run through critical considerations to think about before stepping into the law school classroom, or the "theater of learning" for the first time! Through a series of interactive diagnostic questions and teaching pages, the lesson explores many themes of first semester, including choosing your seat, class participation and how to handle the Socratic method, pre- and post-class prep, time management, using professors' office hours, and how the basics of the court system and functions of each level of court generate the "case method" of law school teaching and learning.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Prepare for the dynamics of the law school classroom, including where to sit and how to respond to the Socratic method of professor-student colloquy.
2. Recognize the importance of briefing cases and become familiar with methods for briefing.
3. Identify the purpose and logic behind the case method of teaching, including basic court system concepts.
4. Understand and access resources to manage imposter syndrome.
5. Recognize the importance of time management in maximizing performance.

Reading Comprehension Strategies for Exams

In this CALI lesson, we will provide some steps you can follow to improve your reading comprehension.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. More accurately answer an essay question by better understanding the task and student's role.
2. Spot key words and phrases, thus making better use of this information in the analysis within the answer.
3. Improve speed and ability to navigate a question without sacrificing accuracy of detail.

Secrets to Improved Memorization

Final exams require recalling information from over 14 weeks of the semester. This lesson provides insight on how to remember the vast information from class to apply on final exams.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:

1. Describe chunking, spaced repetition, and the testing effect.
2. Employ chunking, spaced repetition, and the testing effect while studying.
3. Develop long-term learning strategies incorporating chunking, spaced repetition, and the testing effect.

Semester Self-Assessment & Reflection

This lesson is designed to help you self-assess your semester performance. It is best suited for completion after you finish a full law school semester. It begins with a brief overview of self-regulated learning and metacognition. Then, the lesson provides a step-by-step process for assessing your law school semester.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:
1. Explain the importance of self-regulated learning and metacognition.
2. Self-assess and reflect on your learning.
3. Create a plan for continued academic success.

Time Management: Creating Your Plan

This lesson provides time management strategies for law students.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:
1. Understand the importance of effective time management.
2. Account for school and personal time commitments.
3. Create a daily, weekly, and semester time management plan.

Study Groups: Best Practices

This lesson gives best practices on whether and how to form a law school study group.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:
1. Describe the importance of collaboration as a tool for success in law school.
2. Explain whether, when, and how to best collaborate through a study group.
3. Assess the value of the study group to ensure that the student maximizes the benefit of the study group.
4. Draft a study group contract that outlines the parameters of the group.

Words Matter

You may have heard that lawyers are precise. It's true. In law school, you will spend a lot of time discussing the meaning of a singular word or placement of a comma.
It is also true that sometimes there is more than one way to say something, or multiple phrases may mean essentially the same thing. It can be tricky to hear both that every punctuation mark and word matters, and that you must be nimble enough to recognize when two sources are talking about the same concept in different terms.

This lesson is designed to show you some examples both of precision, and of when two things essentially mean the same thing.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the lesson, the student will be able to:
1. Recognize the importance of careful word choice and punctuation
2. Evaluate whether two terms or phrases have identical meanings
3. Understand that words may have meanings that are legal terms of art, outside of their common usage

Other Useful CALI Resources

About CALI LessonLink/LessonLive

LessonLink is a CALI tool that allows faculty members to view student scores with the push of a button, completion rates and usage of CALI Lessons. Faculty can create a LessonLink with a push of the button - the system then creates a unique web address (or URL) for existing CALI Lessons and groups the LessonLinks on a single web page by the course that they are created for. Each course can have an unlimited number of LessonLinks in an unlimited number of CALI topics.

Students must access the lesson using the LessonLink URL; otherwise, the system will not record their usage. Also, as with all CALI Lessons, students must be registered with CALI and logged into the site to access lessons. Faculty members can share the LessonLink and Course URLs the same way any other URL is shared - via a post on a course website (e.g. TWEN, Blackboard®, WebCT), course blog, or by email.

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About QuizWright®

QuizWright® helps teachers track what students are learning. It lets teachers write Multiple Choice, True/False, and Yes/No questions as formative assessments for their students that can be run inside or outside the classroom. Faculty can also use and modify questions from CALI's bank of questions.

About CALI Podcasts

CALI Podcasts are 10-minute audio recordings of law professors explaining narrow legal topics in a straightforward manner.

Join CALI at
www.cali.org
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library of legal education resources.

ABOUT US

The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that does research and development in online legal education. CALI publishes over 1000 interactive tutorials, free casebooks and develops software for experiential learning. Over 90% of US law schools are members giving students unlimited and free access to these materials.

OUR MISSION

CALI advances global legal education through computer technology, employs research, collaboration, and leadership to assist a diverse audience in the effective use of this technology in legal education, and promotes access to justice through the use of computer technology.

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