

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 (class 26 of 30!!)

Today:

- *Finish* legal research & analysis!
- *Start* legal writing!

For next class (Th May 11) – *If you didn't already:*

- Give court observation oral reflection in class!
- Post court observation summary on OL by end of day!
- Post "Law in Culture" review on OL by end of day!

Tu May 16: Quiz #4 *in class* & review for final exam!

Th May 18: **FINAL EXAM!**

Tu May 23: Last class! *Thoughts?!*

Some terminology regarding court decisions generally:

reporter = publication (book) containing texts of courts' decisions in particular cases.

slip opinion = copy of decision published shortly after it is issued, before it gets published in a reporter.

syllabus = brief summary of a case, including the holding and main legal principles.

headnotes = short paragraphs near the beginning of a court decision, summarizing the court's ruling on particular issues in that case.

Regarding appellate court decisions:

affirm = when an appellate court **affirms** a lower court's decision, that means it agrees with the decision, whatever it was (whoever won or lost).

reverse (overrule) = when an appellate court **reverses** a lower court's decision, that means it disagrees with the decision, and changes it.

unanimous opinion = when all judges deciding a case agree on the legal reasoning and decision. *Rare!!*

majority opinion ("opinion of the Court") = opinion that represents the views of the majority of the judges who decide a case, either affirming or reversing the decision of the lower court.

concurring opinion = one or more judges deciding a case agree with the majority opinion, but for different reasons, or they want to emphasize a particular point.

dissenting opinion—one or more judges disagree with the majority decision, and write an explanation of why the result should have been different.

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citation = provides information indicating where a case, statute, constitution, or other law may be found.

Citation of a court decision (case) includes:

- name of the case (caption/parties' names)
- volume number of the reporter in which it is located
- abbreviated name of the reporter in which it is located
- page number of the reporter on which the decision begins
- the year it was decided

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***Intro to legal writing!* PⓈP QUIZ!!**

When a paralegal receives a writing assignment, she/he must be sure to understand:

- (A) the deadline for the assignment
- (B) the appropriate type of writing
- (C) the intended reader of what the paralegal will write
- (D) all of these!!**

Which of the following types of documents do paralegals prepare?

- (A) pleadings
- (B) legal memoranda
- (C) letters (correspondence)
- (D) all of the above!!**

To avoid liability for unauthorized practice of law, a paralegal who drafts an opinion letter at the request of an attorney:

- (A) should NOT sign his own name to the letter!!**
- (B) may sign her own name, so long as she indicates that she is a paralegal
- (C) may sign his own name, so long as the attorney permits him to do so
- (D) none of these choices are correct.

