

Overview: Each student (or team of two students) will give a five-minute oral presentation on a "Practice Pointer" or "Ethics Alert" in our Legal Research textbook, and post a short summary on OpenLab in advance of the presentation.

Instructions: Our textbook, *The Legal Research and Writing Handbook* (8th ed. 2018), includes "Practice Pointers" and "Ethics Alerts" in each chapter, set off from the main text in boxes, highlighting important information paralegals and attorneys should consider when conducting legal research. Here are some examples, from page 11:

PRACTICE POINTER

State and federal courts can decide issues of state or federal law.

ETHICS ALERT

If you are assisting an attorney in preparing a claim, be certain that the claim is made in a court that has jurisdiction over such a claim.

Each student or team will choose one "Practice Pointer" or "Ethics Alert" from the textbook and give a five-minute oral presentation on it to the class. The presentation need not be fancy or high-tech! Most important, presenters should explain the pointer or alert, and why it is important for paralegals and attorneys to follow. You can do that in any way you think is effective: discuss an example of how the issue arises in real life, or potential consequences of failing to follow the pointer, or pose a question to the class, whatever you'd like! You will probably need to read more than just the "Pointer" or "Alert" itself, which is only one or two sentences like the ones above, to give a quality presentation. You might want to read other relevant material in the chapter and/or outside research—be sure to cite your sources!!

By the end of Thursday, February 23, please send me an email identifying, in order of preference, three dates from this list when you would like to give your presentation:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Tues Mar 2 | Th Mar 25 | Tu Apr 20 |
| Th Mar 4 | Tu Apr 6 | Th Apr 22 |
| Th Mar 11 | Th Apr 8 | Th Apr 29 |
| Tu Mar 16 | Tu Apr 13 | Tu May 4 |
| Tu Mar 23 | Th Apr 15 | Th May 6 |

First come, first served! If you will give your presentation as a team with another student, please send me one email from both of you, state that you will work as a team and copying the other student. **At least one week before your presentation**, please meet with me to discuss the "Practice Pointer" or "Ethics Alert" from the textbook on which you will give your presentation—I can help you choose it, if needed. **One day before your presentation**, please post on OpenLab a one-paragraph summary of your presentation (category: Oral presentation!), which serves two purposes: (1) it forces you to prepare a written outline of your presentation, so you will be better prepared to give it; and (2) it will provide us all with helpful information to reference in the future! Your post and presentation will be graded according to the rubric below. We look forward to hearing from you! ☺

Grading rubric:

Score: _____ / 5

	Excellent!	Good	Passable	Unsatisf.
Preparation: The presenter(s) showed that they had sufficiently prepared for the presentation, including familiarizing themselves with the material, and rehearsing.	1	.75	.50	0
Content: The presenter(s) effectively taught the "Pointer" or "Alert" to the class, including a detailed explanation of why it is important, with examples or other information the presenter(s) found in elsewhere in the textbook or in outside sources (which they cited).	1	.75	.50	0
Organization: The presentation was well-organized and easy for the audience to follow and understand.	1	.75	.50	0
Delivery: The presenter(s) spoke audibly, clearly, and professionally, in a manner designed to engage the audience, and demonstrating that they take this assignment seriously.	1	.75	.50	0
OpenLab post: The presenter(s) posted a summary of their presentation on OpenLab that: (a) outlined the important points; (b) provided a helpful reference for classmates' later use; (c) was posted on time (<u>before</u> the presentation); and (d) was grammatically correct (spelling, etc.)	1	.75	.50	0