



Title	<u>U.S. Legal Writing</u>		
Lecturers:	Prof. Lane N. McFadden (Indiana University – Maurer School of Law) lanemcfa@iu.edu Professor McFadden teaches legal writing, oral advocacy, and appellate practice at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana, USA. His approach to legal writing is informed by many years’ experience representing the federal government in cases before the federal appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court. He believes strongly in the importance of clear and direct writing, and teaches from a pragmatic perspective.		
Brief description	This one-week legal writing course will introduce the dominant writing paradigm of U.S. lawyers and give students an opportunity to implement that paradigm in different formats for different audiences. Although the focus is on U.S. legal writing, the fundamental writing skills involved will be useful for all forms of professional writing for an educated audience. The course will also incorporate the use of current technologies (including “generative artificial intelligence”) designed to assist in drafting and editing your professional writing. Course goals: By the end of this course, students will be able to produce short written works of legal analysis in different forms, using the structures expected by trained legal advocates in the United States. The course will give students an opportunity to try their hand at both predictive and persuasive writing, and to convey related legal issues to different audiences with different goals. By the end of this course, you will be able to: • Differentiate between predictive and persuasive legal writing styles • Structure your writing logically and coherently, at the document, paragraph, and sentence levels; • Produce writing that meets your reader’s expectations and needs for practical value and efficiency; • Use technology to improve your writing efficiently, effectively, and ethically.		
Schedule	Date	To Prepare for Class	In-Class Activities and Topics
	Monday	Before the first class meeting: • Read the following pages in <i>An Advocate Persuades</i>: ____ to ____. • Read the case file (it will be provided to	• A brief overview of the civil litigation process in the United States • Introduction to IRAC/CREAC – organizing your written legal analysis based on legal rules • Introduction to the case file that we will use in this class

		you before class begins)	Beginning a legal memo and approaching legal analysis	
	Tuesday	Before class: - Read the judicial opinions provided to you related to the case file - Read the following pages in <i>An Advocate Persuades</i>: ____ to ____.	- Synthesizing a legal rule: the C-R-E of your memo - Writing about jurisprudence - Analogous reasoning and application of fact to law	
	Wednesday	Before class: - Complete your brief legal memo - Read the following pages in <i>An Advocate Persuades</i>: ____ to ____.	- Revising and editing - Using technology to improve our drafts - Shifting from prediction to persuasion – having written about what might happen, let’s try to make it happen - Correspondence and client communications	
	Thursday	Before class: - Complete your draft client letter - Complete your revisions to your email memo	- Writing persuasively in an adversarial context – the demand letter - Peer review – learning to give feedback in a professional setting	
	Friday	Before class: - Complete your draft demand letter - Read the following pages in <i>An Advocate Persuades</i>: ____ to ____	- Revising the demand letter and revisiting the IRAC/CREAC formula - Lessons for future writing projects	

Recommended readings	Proposed course text: Rocklin & Rocklin, et al., An Advocate Persuades 2nd edition (Carolina Academic Press, 2022)
Exam	Course Policies: Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Presenting the work of another person as if it is your own will be considered plagiarism. Any document determined by the professor to involve an instance of plagiarism will receive no credit, and additional consequences may also apply. I do not consider work generated by artificial intelligence to be “the work of another person”; therefore use of AI as you create your written work does not constitute plagiarism. However, there are additional legal and ethical concerns raised by this technology that we will discuss in class. Expectations for Students: Attendance: Because this class meets for only one week, regular attendance is expected. Gaining credits for the course is linked to the required personal attendance throughout the five days (maximum one absence is allowed) and to active participation