

# Welcome!

## To-Do List

- Cross off these items in November/December, so you can make progress as efficiently as possible once the spring semester begins!

## Tips

## Resources

- Writing Center - contact, appointments
- Library - contact, appointments

## Questions?

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# What is the Capstone Course Pilot Program?

## Target Audience

- Students completing Capstones through individual research

## Goals

- Provide guidance and structure in low-stakes setting
- Brainstorm and troubleshoot

## Commitment

- Weekly group meeting
  - Individual appointments
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# To Do List

## Read Chapters 1-3 of *Modern Legal Scholarship*

- New book by Sandy Patrick, et. al
- Chapter 1: Exploring Topics and Establishing a System
- Chapter 2: Diving into Research
- Chapter 3: Crafting Your Thesis

## Select a Topic

- Where to start?
    - Originality
    - Personal importance
  - Where to look?
    - Legal news
    - Circuit splits
    - Outside scope of articles
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# To Do List

## Choose a Format

- Law review article or something else?

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## Establish a System for Collecting Sources, Keeping Track of Research

- What sources do you need? Where can you find them?
  - Set up research log
  - Record citation information immediately
  - Write down everything
  - Begin organizing notes by topic as early as possible
  - Use consistent system for labeling quotations, paraphrases, original ideas within notes
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# To Do List

## Find a Supervisor

- Adjunct? Get permission!
- Confirm preferred length, style, level of formality
- Request rubric and samples
- Schedule conversations to discuss written feedback

## Set a Timeline With Your Supervisor

- Set final deadline and work backwards
  - Set intermediate deadlines, incorporate buffers
  - Define concrete tasks
  - Identify blocks of time on personal calendar
  - Avoid distractions and interruptions
  - Keep yourself accountable
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# To Do List

## Schedule Pre-emption Check With Library

- What are you checking for?
- Set up alerts to track developments
- What to do if pre-empted?

## Formulate Your Thesis/ Problem Statement

- Context/background
  - Importance/urgency
  - Takeaway message: What needs to change?
  - Original contribution to legal conversation
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# To Do List

## Prepare Statement of Interest

- What is it?
- Why is it important?

## Brainstorm Title

- Have fun!
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# What To Do If...

## You Encounter Writer's Block?

- Keep pad of paper and writing implement (or preferred electronic device) nearby
- Try writing out of order
- Put away the blank page
- Talk it out
- Approach project as collection of chunks

## You Receive Negative Feedback?

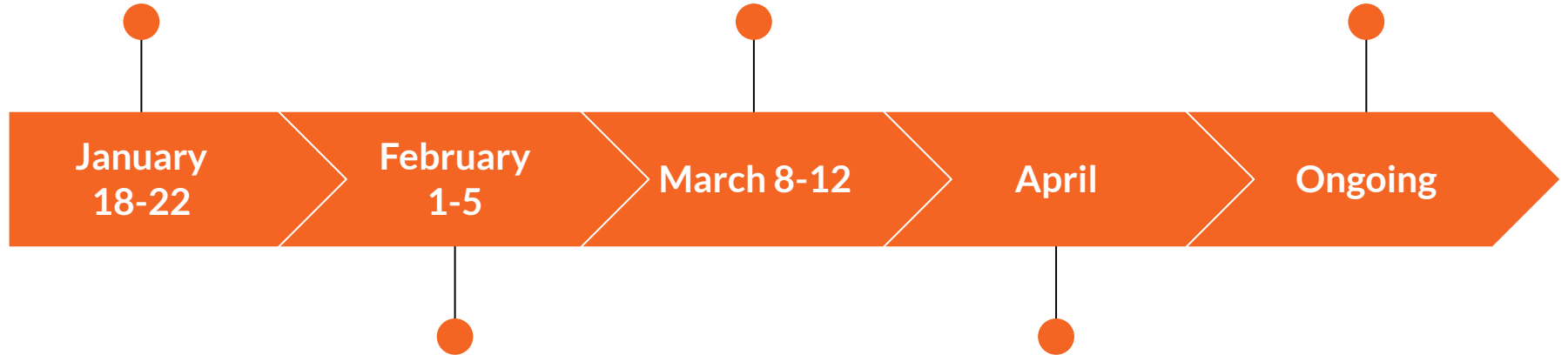
- Read full document and all comments to get sense of professor's priorities
  - Identify substantive areas needing attention, flag stylistic concerns to address later
  - Blame brusqueness on busyness
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Get supervisor's approval of thesis

Get supervisor's approval of draft

Feel proud of your accomplishment!



Get supervisor's approval of outline

Turn in final product

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# Resources From Today's Workshop

## Writing Center

[hillarygell@lclark.edu](mailto:hillarygell@lclark.edu)

[legalwrt@lclark.edu](mailto:legalwrt@lclark.edu)

<https://lawlib.lclark.libcal.com/appointments/writing>

## Library - Capstone reference appointments available!

[lawlib@lclark.edu](mailto:lawlib@lclark.edu)

<https://lawlib.lclark.libcal.com/appointments/lawlibrary>

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# Questions?

One more bit of advice:  
*Modern Legal Scholarship's* comment  
on use of Id.

\*\*\* Thank you for attending! \*\*\*

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