

THE LEGAL PACESETTERS

TLP MASTERCLASS 1.0

TOPIC; the Art of Legal Writing

1ST OUTLINE: Introduction to Legal Research and Its Constituents

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VENUE: TLP MASTERCLASS 1.0 Platform

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 20TH DAY OF MAY, 2020

INTRODUCTION

If you are a law student, chances are you hear the term ‘legal research’ on a daily basis. Contrary to layman belief, it is not limited to finding the law. It is the analyzing of the information that is at one’s disposal, that is, finding, understanding and applying of law. Be it legislation, case laws or opinions of the higher courts; legal professionals need to be thorough with the current laws, the practices and the procedures, to be able to fully and efficiently cater to the interests of a client and the society at large

OUTLINE:

At the end of this teaching, you will learn the following:

- 1. What is Legal Research?**
- 2. Importance of Legal Research**
- 3. Sources of Legal Research**
- 4. Ways of enhancing Legal Research skill**
- 5. Guide on writing effective Legal Articles**
- 6. How to research for Articles**

1.0 Meaning of Legal Research and Its Importance

The Encyclopedia Britannica defines research as “the act of searching into a matter closely and carefully, inquiry directed to the discovery of truth and in particular, the trained scientific investigation of the principles and facts of any subject, based on original sources of knowledge. If there is one skill that is primary to the practice of law, it is legal research, and that is irrespective of the kind of role one chooses to undertake – whether one is a practicing advocate, a corporate lawyer, student or a paralegal. In fact, it would not be an exaggeration to say that it is indeed the founding stone on which the whole premise of the legal profession is built. One might wonder, so then, if legal research is such an indispensable skill, how come we hardly pay any conscious heed to it. Truth is even if we do not talk about the theory per se, we practice it every day of our profession.

1. **The need to be conversant with the main ingredients of a case:** A law student or lawyer can only be conversant with the following ingredients of a case when he/she conducts extensive legal research regarding them. Legal research is the process of identifying and retrieving information necessary to support legal decision-making.

The purpose of legal research is to find legal documents that will aid in finding a solution to a legal problem.

- **Point of law in disputed issues:** The point of law can easily be found by legal research by browsing through the primary and secondary sources of information. Cases, statutes and regulations comprise the point of law and may also extend to include precedents or earlier judicial decisions which may be of persuasive or even authoritative value. Examples of Secondary Sources are Articles, Textbooks, Annotations & Digests, Law Reviews & Journals

Good legal research can land one up with not only good binding and authoritative cases but also judgments delivered, having persuasive value. Extensive research allows a lawyer to substantiate the matter on the best possible

grounds. When you read law reports and see the arguments of top lawyers, you will enjoy doing more research

1.2 Sources of Legal Research

1. **Primary Sources:** A document that establishes the law on a particular issue, such as a case decision or legislative act. Don't use cases of other countries when there is a decision of a Court in Nigeria. Cases from other countries, however, are persuasive authority, not mandatory. Persuasive authority holds little weight, so it should be scrapped from your writing except there is no Nigerian case or you want to know what is obtainable in other jurisdiction. The only cases that hold mandatory authority are Supreme Court decisions. If there is no Supreme Court Cases, you can now use Court of Appeal cases. Always ensure to find out the Supreme Court decision on a particular matter before using cases from other lower courts. Imagine citing Federal High Court case as Authority when there is a Supreme Court case or Court of Appeal. (*Egungu have entered express*)

Why do you need Primary Sources?

1. **Authoritative**
2. **Precedential**
3. **Controlling**

2. **Secondary Sources:** Sources of information that describe or interpret the law, such as legal treatises, law review articles, and other scholarly legal writings, cited by lawyers to persuade a court to reach a particular decision in a case, but which the court is not obligated to follow. It supplements the area of practice: It adds value to the area of practice, by backing up whatever is being quoted from different credible sources. Legal Research when utilized well can create job opportunities for you and fetch you cool cash

Why do you need Secondary Sources?

1. **To Learn from Legal Experts**

2. **Get most important authority**
3. **Read important background information**

☐ **EFFECTIVE READING:** Reading is an essential part of the research. Lawyers and law student spend hours flipping through pages of material in a day. However, the key is to efficiently read, which goes beyond just understanding the text on a page. One vital part to be kept in mind is to be selective while reading. One need not read the entire book cover to cover to understand the crux of the matter. Certain books have brilliant introduction section where the editor summarizes the whole book, in a nutshell, making it an excellent place to start. The skill also includes knowing what to search for and where to find it. The basic understanding of the subject is a pre-requisite for any argument construction. One needs to comprehend the meaning, the history and development to have a holistic understanding. The stronger the base, the sturdier is the building. Hence, it is imperative to begin the research from the very basics.

☐ **LEARN HOW TO CHECK MULTIPLE SOURCES FOR THE CORRECT**

INFORMATION: Information Technology has ushered in an era where access to information is not an obstacle, but where and how to find the most appropriate piece of information is the real challenge. Authenticity is the key in legal research and hence, finding accurate, relevant and authentic information is of great importance. The internet is a goldmine for information and legal research tools such as search engines, blogs, case law databases, etc. augment the entire process of legal research. However, there are certain circumstances wherein what we read on the internet is not entirely correct. The fake news endemic has penetrated into social media and the internet. Specific legal research tools, such as government websites are considered to be authentic sources of law. Therefore, it is imperative to check multiple sources to make the argument more accurate and well-informed.

❑ **INCULCATE THE HABIT OF DISCUSSING WITH SENIORS AND COLLEAGUES** The practice of discussing with the peer group and colleagues as well as seniors is a healthy habit. There are various advantages to it. One of the most apparent benefits is that it enhances an overall understanding of the subject. The more one discusses, the clearer the concepts get in his head and more fruitfully will he be able to apply the same. Another advantage is that when one discusses a topic with others, the different perspectives and insights paint a more holistic picture. Somehow the biggest pitfall in legal research is research. Most people, when they get a topic, start with a Google search. The moment you do it, you have screwed up. Before you start goggling or reading textbooks or any other research, there is a very important step. That is the framing of research questions.: If you start with that kind of research where you Google and see what others have written already and then decide what you are going to write, then you have let yourself be influenced, not done any original thinking, shrunken the space for originality and creativity, and increased the chances of coming up with something short of originality

1.3 GUIDES ON WRITING EFFECTIVE LEGAL ARTICLES

1. **Audience:** Before you even finalize your topic, you need to consider your audience. Who are they, what do they know. The best way to do this is to create a person in your head. Of course, this won't be representative of everyone your article goes to, but it is instrumental in helping you find the right voice in your article. You're not then writing in a void – you're writing TO someone.

Once you accept the reality that you are writing to someone, rather than AT someone, a lot of the issues facing many legal articles will immediately dissolve out of your writing. Legal articles should be engaging, arresting, informative, and succinct. Anything else isn't good enough. Every word you write should be tailored to the needs of the reader. Always keep your audience in mind when crafting any piece of writing.

2. **Length:** Aim for at least 1500 words (excluding footnotes and citations). More is fine. This is because Google gives more importance to long form articles

in search result as opposed to very short articles. However, make sure to break down your article in many small paras with multiple headings and subheadings. If you are writing project, peer review paper, thesis, you can write from 20 pages up.. So don't go and bore us with big articles on a blog.. Keep it concise

3. **Language:** Simplest possible language must be very easy to read. Use simple sentences instead of complex sentences and easy words instead of difficult words. Only in school (Literature class) people get rewarded for using a difficult language, everywhere else, in real life, using difficult, complicated language results in being penalized and ridiculed. Please write in as simple language as possible.

What makes your article valuable is quality of information and insights, how rare or useful the information or insight you are providing is, how easy it is to understand and read, and how nicely the content is flowing from one issue to another.

4. **Avoid Legalese** — specialized legal phrases and jargon — can make your writing abstract, stilted, and archaic. To avoid legalese and promote clarity, try reading your sentence to a colleague or substituting abstract words with simple, concrete terms.

Drop all this your hereinafter, aforementioned etc.. Avoid using much Latin Maxim; we know you are legal pundit.

4. **Be Concise:** Every word you write should contribute to your message. Omit extraneous words, shorten complex sentences, eliminate redundancies, and keep it simple.

5. **Use Action Words:** Action words make your legal prose more powerful, dynamic, and vivid. Add punch to your writing with verbs that bring your prose to life.

6. **Organize Your Writing:** Organization is the key to successful legal writing. Create a roadmap for your writing by using visual clues to guide the reader. Introduce your subject in an introductory paragraph, use transitional phrases

(“furthermore,” “however,” “in addition,” etc.) between each paragraph, introduce each paragraph with a topic sentence, and use headings and subheadings to break up blocks of text. Limit each paragraph to one topic, and sum up your message with a concluding sentence or paragraph. Organizational structure guides the reader through your text and promotes readability.

7. **Grammar:** Your work reflects your image. It is necessary that grammar is absolutely correct. Publish or submit for publication only after writing check for spelling, grammar and language errors. You can use free online tools for this purpose. If you can afford it, you can buy good software for this as well or install it on your phone. There is software to detect grammar, plagiarism, spellings. It helps you stand out.

8. **Your Article’s Headline:** Your headline should tell me why I care about your article. It should be about ME, not you. Avoid headlines that are too clever. It’s tempting to get all fancy with your headlines, but it’s got to be immediately meaningful – if I can’t figure out what it’s about, then I’m probably not going to click on it. Just keep the headline simply.. Forget literature in English in your headline.. Make it simple at least people can read. If you confuse us with your headline, we will be shouting WoooWooa, Good job in your comment without reading it.

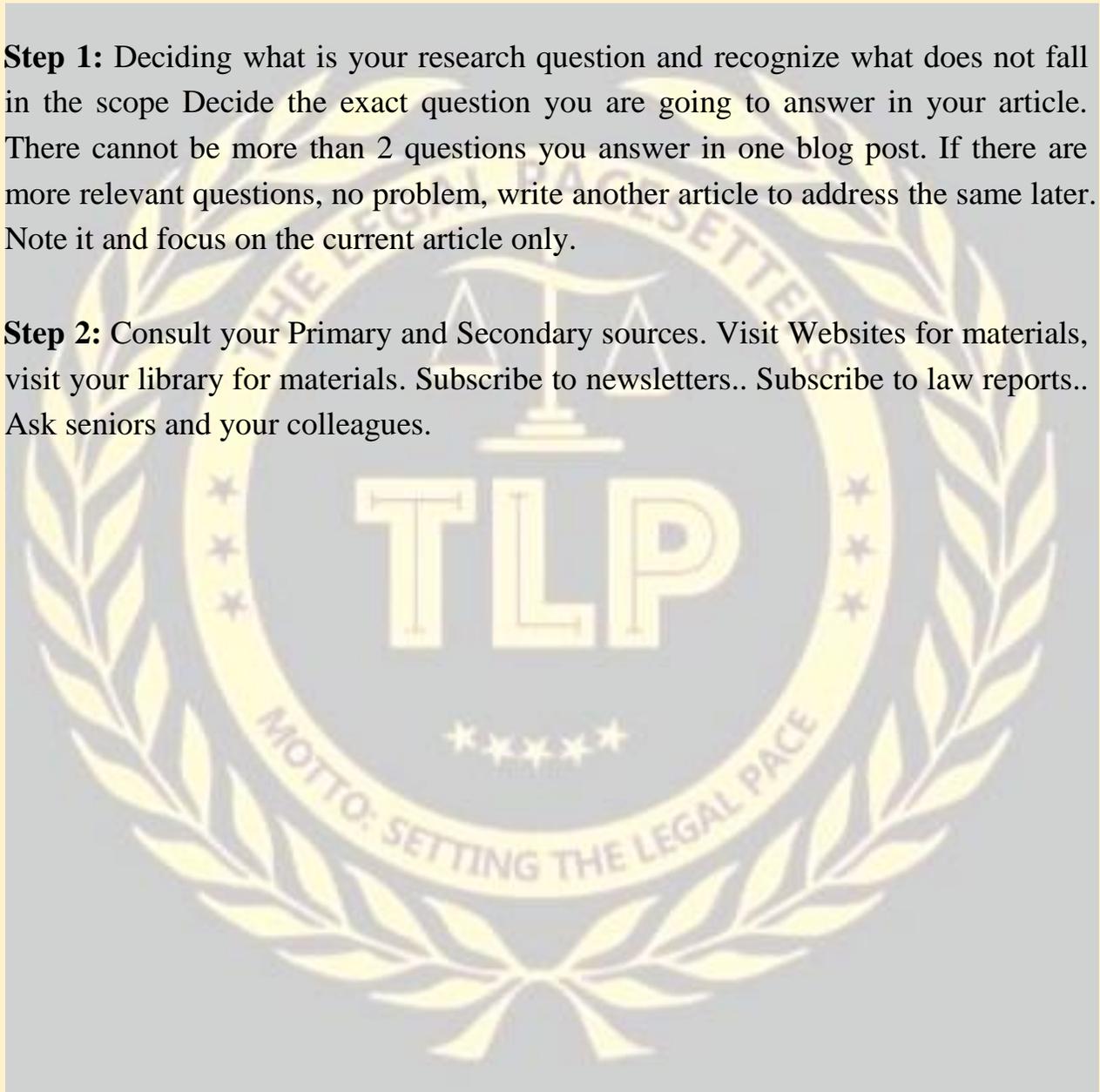
9. **Scan ability:** Most readers skim through the article to see if it is worth a read. So add more subheadings, bullet points and paragraph breaks. Don't jam everything together. Even motivational books are easy to read so don't come and add to our problems

10. **Opening Sentences Matter:** If you’ve convinced me to click on your article, then you also need to convince me to read it. Your opening sentence **MUST** align with your headline and your extract – they need to tell the same story, but not in the same way. The opening sentence should offer enough about the article that the person wants to read the rest. It should not contain the answer to the question, the benefit you offered, or anything else that means there is no need to read the rest of

the article. References should be cited properly through a hyperlink. Wherever possible, use hyperlink instead of footnotes. You adopt the footnote pattern if you are writing for journals, project or thesis. Don't plagiarize because it is intellectual theft and you can be sued.

Step 1: Deciding what is your research question and recognize what does not fall in the scope Decide the exact question you are going to answer in your article. There cannot be more than 2 questions you answer in one blog post. If there are more relevant questions, no problem, write another article to address the same later. Note it and focus on the current article only.

Step 2: Consult your Primary and Secondary sources. Visit Websites for materials, visit your library for materials. Subscribe to newsletters.. Subscribe to law reports.. Ask seniors and your colleagues.



DAY 2: THURSDAY, 21ST OFMAY, 2020

We outlined some guidelines and ways you can enhance your research skills. We outlined the sources of research (Primary sources: Cases, statutes, treaties and Secondary sources: Textbooks, Newspapers, Journals etc) and we also outlined the importance of legal research. Let us get to the business of the day.

I am Chidera Nwokeke. A member of Rotary International.

We will be looking at **Legal Research part 2...** Tonight's teaching will centre more on writing of Long Essay (Final year project) The undergraduate long essay (Final Year Project) is usually delineated into five chapters. Before writing the long essay, law students are expected to have gone through the research planning and research implementation phases.

Legal research involves the systematic investigation towards ascertaining the state of the law, and in the words of Vibhute and Anynalem 'with a view to making advancement in the law'. Legal writing, on the other hand, comprises the methods of synthesizing authorities or research resources to produce a research output or report (Garner) Legal writing is the last stage in the legal research process, as any research endeavor is incomplete without the writing If you want to write project for yourself or for someone, what structure or pattern will you follow

STRUCTURAL DESIGN OF THE LONG ESSAY (project)

Preliminary Parts of the Research

The preliminaries of the research are as follows: i.

Title Page ii. Declaration

iii. Certification

iv. Acknowledgements

Tonight's class is so germane, because you cannot escape project writing in your final year, whether as a law student or non law student. 100% attention is advised

v. **Abstract:** The abstract of a research is the conceptual synopsis of the study. The abstract should capture the title of the research, objectives or purpose of the study, the research methodology, research findings, as well as recommendations of the study. It is important to ensure clarity in the language of the report.

Therefore, the language of the report should be simple, and verbose words should be avoided as much as possible. The abstract of a research should not be unnecessarily long. The abstract should not be more than two hundred and fifty words for a long essay.

It should be written in a single block format without paragraphs, and must be written after the research has been concluded even though it appears in the preliminary part of the long essay. The researcher is not required to refer to sources in the abstract; hence, there is no need for citations (footnotes).

**vi. Table of Contents vii. List of Tables (if any) viii. Table of Statutes ix. List of Treaties (if any)
x. Table of Cases xi.**

Abbreviations

All these 11 points I mentioned are found in the preliminary pages Main Parts of the long essay. The main part of long essay should contain five chapters:

CHAPTER 1: THE INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

1.1. Background of the Study: The background of the study introduces the research. It entails the laying of the necessary foundation for the research. It sets out the facts in relation to the state of affairs on the subject of study. It helps situate the research problem within the context of the study. Therefore, the essence of the background of the study is to enable the research problem to be derived from it. Both the problem statement and the research questions should logically flow from the background of the study. Also, the area of concern of the research, as well as its justification should be stated in the background of the study. All the information that will vividly highlight the research problem should be provided in this section, including why the researcher believes the problem is researchable.

1.2. Statement of the Research Problem: The identification and formulation of the research problem(s) are considered to be the heart of the research, and constitute the ‘why’ of the study. The ability to identify and formulate robust and

apt research problem or problems is central to the success of the research endeavour (Vibhute and Anynalem).

1.3. Purpose/Objective of the Study: The purpose of the study should describe what the research will add to the already existing body of knowledge in terms of new insights in the law, with the capacity to fill the gaps where they exist. The research may also seek to establish a new legal order, or body of laws where none existed. Therefore, the purpose of the study should specifically explain what the research seeks to bring forth, which is different from the status quo in the chosen subject of the law. The purpose of the study should be itemised or outlined, and the writer should demonstrate a linkage between the purpose of the study and the research questions. The purpose or objective of the study is what drives the research

1.4. Significance of the Study: In a nutshell, the essence of this part of the research report is to state the importance of the chosen legal research (Steytler and de Visser) The significance of legal research, like the purpose or objective of the study, involves the ‘what’ of the research. Generally, the significance of research is determined by its relevance to society – in providing solution to problems.

1.5. Research Questions: The research questions should be framed in a manner that will enable the issues or the research problem(s) to be squarely addressed. Research questions are the cardinal questions which the study seeks to find answers to. And since the researcher does not know, for certain, the outcome of the research, he is, however, expected to provide some general assumptions which will be confirmed or disproved in the substantiating chapters of the research. It is advisable to outline the important research questions or underlying assumptions

1.6. Scope of the Study: The scope of the study involves the area(s) which the study will examine. It is the extent to which the research will go in relation to the stated research problems and questions. The jurisdiction the research will cover.

1.7. The limitations of the study: They are the constraints, challenges or shortcomings which confront the research/researcher. They are factors that are usually out of the researcher’s control. The challenges to research may be as a

result of the nature of the research or the time allotted to it. Personally, I faced the limitation of distance because I was in East writing on a topic that deals with refugees and IDPs and Armed conflict and my supervisor was expecting me to go and do field work.. I wonder who send me work

1.8. Research Methodology: The research methodology constitutes the ‘how’ of the research –how the research was carried out. It is the process used in the collection of data and gives rise to the research findings. The legal researcher must state, in concise terms, how the research data was collected. There are three basic methodologies in collecting legal research data, which fall into either the doctrinal or non-doctrinal legal research. They are interview, observation, and examination of existing primary and secondary sources. The second and third methodologies are mostly adopted in legal research, It is important to note that research methodology is different from research method. Research method involves the approach adopted in putting together the research report. A researcher may adopt the analytical, comparative, descriptive, prescriptive or exploratory approach, or a combination of some of these approaches, in the writing of the legal research.

CHAPTER TWO: CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION:

At this point, the definition of key terms or concepts in the context of the research is provided. The key terms or concepts to be defined or clarified should not be too many. And they are to be defined in such a manner that will avoid ambiguity and enable the readers to understand how the term/concepts are applied in the research report.

Literature Review: this is usually found in chapter two. This is the act of reviewing literatures that are related to the research, drawing on key theories and concepts that relate, directly or indirectly, to the study at hand. The literature review should identify the areas of divergence of the current research with the existing literature. This is only possible when the researcher undertakes extensive reading and study of existing literature

The following key points must be reflected in a good literature review:

- I. Don't analyze legislations at this point.
- ii. it should be important,

- iii. it should be presented in a logical manner, iv. The reviewed literature should be current,
- v. It should be comprehensive and realistic Be sincere in your sincere in your analysis. Don't fabricate non existing facts

THE SUBSTANTIATING CHAPTERS: The substantiating chapters are essential to the main part of the research. For the long essay, three chapters make up the substantiating chapters – chapters two, three and four of the research. Since the bulk of the long essay is devoted to substantiating the arguments, which are a direct function of the issues or research questions, it is important to divide the arguments into segments or chapters, in a manner that provide answers to the issues or research questions.

CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion Chapter: The concluding part of a legal research report should contain the summary, conclusion, and recommendations.

This chapter is further divided into three sub-sections as follows:

1. **Summary:** In the summary, the researcher should summarize the research problem(s) the methodology adopted in implementing the research, as well as the substantiating chapters of the research. This provides an overview or general idea of the research to the readers where each substantiating chapter contains a concluding sub-section; this final conclusion should merely abridge the various conclusions in the substantiating chapters.

2. **Recommendations:** The recommendations should contain the plausible future direction of the law, as well as research endeavors on the subject area. It should provide recommendations for action, specifically directed to, for example, the legislature, the courts, government agencies, civil society organizations, or other institutions. After you are done with the conclusion chapter, you will write the bibliography which is not part of the five chapters. You must learn how to do proper citation and bibliography.. My village people punished me and blessed me in disguise by causing my school to assign our Legal research Lecturer as my

supervisor... You need to see red flying up and down in my citation and work but I was forced to learn it and it has helped my writing skills.. Citation and bibliography is very important in writing

3. **Bibliography:** The end part of the research report contains the bibliography. In academic legal research, the bibliography is a chronological listing of all secondary materials only referred to in the research. (Primary authorities are referenced at the Preliminary page under list of statutes, cases, and treaties) The bibliographical entries should be stated under headings. For example:

- ☐ Books
- ☐ Edited Books
- ☐ Journal Articles
- ☐ Command Papers
- ☐ Conference/Workshop Papers
- ☐ Newspaper Articles
- ☐ Radio/Television Programmes
- ☐ Unpublished Dissertations/Thesis
- ☐ Internet Resources

Example of a bibliography: Nwabueze, B., Constitutional Democracy in Africa Vol. 1: Structures, Powers and Organising Principles of Government, 1st edn (Ibadan: Spectrum Books, 2003)

Finally for tonight, I will stop here... We will continue tomorrow by God's grace... We will look at how do proper citations on all this listed items... We will also look at Brief writing (Written address) Thank you very much for your time.

DAY 3: FRIDAY, 22nd OFMAY, 2020

We will look at Citation, Quotation and written address.

CITATION

There is no universally accepted manner of citation. In Nigeria, we don't have a general accepted citation manner. However, I advise people to always adopt NALT Guide in citation. (Nigerian Association of Law Teachers)

Citing of Cases

When citing a case, the writer should include the name of the parties involved in the action in italics, the year the decision was handed down should be stated in square brackets, followed by specific information as to where the case was published, for example in a law report, and the page are also provided The abbreviation of the court which gave the decision should also be stated. Where a case name is given in the text, it is not necessary to repeat it in the footnote.

Citing Statutes or Legislation

No footnote is required where all the information about the legislation is provided in the text. Text here means the main body of the work. It is wrong to cite a Nigerian legislation by referring to the year in which it was enacted or published, as there is a standard way of citing Nigerian legislation according to the chapters (which are arranged in alphabetical order) and edition in which the legislation is published. The current edition of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria was published in 2004 and it should be cited as such. In citing legislation in the footnote, don't cite the section before the name of the statute rather it should be the other way round.

Citing Secondary Sources

If the researcher makes reference to a secondary source, the researcher should also provide a citation of the work in a footnote. If the initial(s) and surname or the forename and surname are preferred, they should be written in a consistent manner all through the report. Where the resource to be cited is authored by more than three persons, the forename or initials and the surname of the first author should be stated followed by et al (and others) The book title should be written immediately after the name or names of the author or authors in italics, and followed by other publication information inside a pair of brackets. The page number (pinpoint) where the quotation or idea can be found should be provided after the closing bracket.

In the case of edited materials, the title of the edited paper should be stated immediately after the name or names of the author or authors with inverted commas ‘ & ’ used to enclose the title of the paper or article, followed by the word ‘in’ and the name or names of the editor or editors of the book. The remainder of the citation follows the pattern of citing a book source.

For journal articles, the year of publication, volume and issue number, the name of the journal (in italics), the page where the article begins, and the specific page or pages where the quotation or idea can be found

(Pinpoint), in that order, should immediately follow the title of the article. Where the journal was gotten online, after the last number, you will put a comma and write "available at" you put the website link. Note: Foreign words and phrases used in the text which are not commonly used or which have not become part of the English lexicon should be italicized. Words such as obiter dicta, ratio decidendi that are in common usage in legal English should not be italicized. The writer should provide a translation of any foreign word and phrases immediately afterwards in brackets.

QUOTATION

When quoting from primary and secondary materials, the writer must be faithful to the original texts, except where it is necessary to change them. If it is necessary to make changes, it must be indicated by the use of square brackets to indicate that changes have been made to the original texts. When quoting directly from the text of a work which states. **(Ekokoi Solomon)** The square brackets are indications that changes have been made to the original text in the present quotation. The ‘ellipsis’ in a quotation indicates that some words in the original text are missing or have been dropped in the present quotation.

The position of the closing inverted comma is important. Where it is placed before the full stop, it indicates that the writer has ended the quotation before the point where the original text ended. Where the closing inverted comma is placed after the full stop, it means that the quotation has ended at the same place where the original text ended with a full stop.

The writer must ensure to incorporate quotations with maximum of 25 words within the text, with open and close inverted commas (quotation marks) to mark off the beginning and the end of the quote. In cases where the quotation is more than 25 words, it should be indented, preferably, in a single line spacing format, without quotation marks, and must not be italicized. **(Ekokoi Solomon)**

WRITTEN ADDRESS

This is another area you exhibit your research strength and skills. It is used at the close of case by the parties in court. Written address is also called final address. Final Address is defined by the Supreme Court of Nigeria, in the case of **KALU vs.STATE (2017) LPELR-42101(SC)** thus:

“Final address means the last or ultimate speech or submission made to the Court in respect of a matter before it, before the delivery of Judgment”

📌 Importance of Written Address

The importance of addresses from counsel cannot be over-emphasized as "a good address may provide a Judge a clear mental opinion to perceive either the

tenuousness in what had appeared impregnable or to see through the veneer and discover the hard core of a party's case" -**BOSMA & ORS. v. AKINOLE & ORS. (2013) LPELR-CA/L/579/2010.** Written addresses assist the court in arriving at its decision, but it is not designed to take the place of credible evidence or provide the avenue to raise objections that should have been raised earlier on in the case. It streamlines a party's case before the Court. A quality written address can tilt the balance of the learned Judge's Judgment.

However, there are occasions when address from counsel is a matter of formality - they may not diminish or add strength or weakness in a party's case. I know some of you have interest in Moot and Mock Competitions.. It is necessary to know how to draft written address.. One of the mock competition I participated, my team drafted a brief of argument (Used in Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) instead of Written address and we lost a lot of Mark. Thank God, it was not the only grading point

📄 **Contents Of Written Address**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Brief statement of fact**
- 3. Issues for determination**
- 4. Legal Argument**
- 5. Conclusion**
- 6. List of Authorities**

In my undergraduate level, I made cool cash from some of my classmates who were not members of the law clinic and moot court to teach them how to draft motion, affidavit and written address for our exam. Knowing how to draft written address will not only help you as an undergraduate but as a lawyer.

- 1. Introduction:** This is where you state the nature of claim or application on which the address is based. You can also state the mode of commencing the action.

2. **Brief Statement of Fact:** Narrate your facts along a clean story line. Your facts should march naturally, from start to finish. Do not draw conclusions in the facts section. Argument is not allowed in the facts section since you will do that under the section for legal argument. It is under this fact sections that you will draw attention of the Court to various exhibits tendered during the trial. It is necessary to appeal to Court's emotion while narrating your facts. The facts section is the lens through which the judicial reader proceeds to view your argument.
3. **Issues for Determination:** In your formulation of issues for determination, your issues for determination must be in respect of what happened in the Court, be it oral, documentary or affidavit evidence. Devote time and effort to formulate your issue by going through your fact before drafting your first issue. Give each issue a heading that summarizes the core question. The heading should be cast as a question; one short sentence. Identify the rule of law that will potentially govern the outcome of the dispute. Prioritize your issues. Don't go and raise unnecessary issues because the weak issues you raised may weaken the strong issues formulate your issues to steer the court your way. Frame your issues in concrete terms not abstract terms. This was reiterated by **Nnaemeka Agu JSC in the case of OKPALA vs IBEME.**
4. **Legal Argument:** In the argument section, your goal is to explain and apply the law in a way that enables your client to win. Design your argument section to edify the court about the merit of deciding in your favour. Learn to structure your argument on each issue by elaborating the legal premises embedded in the issue statement. Paragraph your points in attractive manner; your paragraphs should be short and coherent. Choose a structural formula for your argument. Example: **IRAC** meaning; Issue-Rule-Analysis or Application- Conclusion. Always remember to put quotation marks where you make any quote. Follow hierarchy in citing your authorities. Do not begin your paragraphs by citing authorities rather your authorities are to back up your argument. Your argument should not be too bulky lest it may discourage the reader. Think before you write.

5. **Conclusion:** In a very short sentence, persuade the court on why the decision should be entered in your client's favour. You can also list your prayers here. Date, signature and (Franking) must be included. This is the particulars of the lawyer that drafted the written address.

6. **List of Authorities You Have Cited:** This should be serially numbered.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SEGMENT

1. I really do not understand the research methodology and its difference from research methods
2. Good evening sir. I noticed that whenever you cited a case you wrote it in cap locks, is there any specific way to write a case in a research like in italics, bold or cap lock, I want to be clear on that. And please you said something about franking, what does it mean please

ANSWER: In citing your case, this is the proper way to do it **Okoye v State_ (2003) 4 NWLR (Pt. 112) 53**. No need for caps lock, bold. I just used the caps lock to get your attention to any particular authority but it is not the proper way When I spoke of research method..**They include: Comparative...** Here you make comparison of laws in your country and what is obtainable in other jurisdiction **Analytical method.** Here you make analysis or appraisal on the topic you are writing etc.

Franking means the particulars of a lawyer, his name, his firm name, address, email and number.

THANK YOU!!!