Abstract

A clear, accessible and practical guide to the skill of legal writing. This practical, student-focused text introduces writing skills essential for successful study in law and explains how to apply them in a legal context. Although designed as a course book for first year law students, it has ongoing relevance throughout law school and beyond.

Basic literacy, legal literacy and writing skills are explored in a way that is fully integrated into legal content, reflecting current pedagogical best-practice. The text assists students to develop sound legal writing skills, providing a solid foundation to enhance performance in professional legal writing tasks. It includes many examples, case studies and exercises and is supported by extensive online resources for lecturers.

The second edition offers expanded examples of legal writing required of both students and professionals including case notes, letters, barristers’ opinions and outlines of argument. It reinforces the importance of academic integrity, especially in relation to admission, by embedding these concepts into practical exercises.

Research Statement

Research Background

This student textbook is purposely designed to enhance and refine law students’ written communication skills, and in particular law students in their first year, within a student-centred, holistic framework founded upon first year experience pedagogy. It involves detailed identification of the broad range of writing exercises students will face both in law school and in legal practice and it explicitly sets out how to respond to tasks depending on the purpose, content, audience (and type of assessment). It encourages independent and reflective learning with content and exercises focused on improving grammar and expression and also reflecting on feedback. It also clearly articulates issues law students may face if they have been found guilty of academic misconduct when applying for admission and provides a range of exercises and techniques designed to highlight this.

Research Contribution

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Item Type: Book (Teaching Material)


Keywords: legal writing; law, communication, assessment; plagiarism; admission; reflection; feedback

Related URLs:

- Organisation

Additional Information:

An earlier edition of this book is available in ResearchOnline at the related URL.

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FoR Codes:

- 18 LAW AND LEGAL STUDIES > 1899 Other Law and Legal Studies > 189999 Law and Legal Studies not elsewhere classified @ 75%
- 13 EDUCATION > 1302 Curriculum and Pedagogy > 130299 Curriculum and Pedagogy not elsewhere classified @ 25%