

General Tips for Success on Exam Writing

Below is a list of tips that will help you succeed when writing a law school exam.

- ★ **Be sure to leave space.** You should utilize paragraph breaks to insert white space into your exam. Leaving blank spaces will make it easier for your professor to follow and easier for you to proofread before turning it in.
- ★ **Use transitions.** It will also help your professor if you use transition words and phrases such as “first,” “next,” and “furthermore”. First, this will help you stay on track of where you are in writing your answer. Second, it will help your professor follow your writing and ideas.
- ★ **Use headings.** If you have a large hypothetical, as you may in a class like torts, you should use headings to identify the parties and cause of action. This will help you stay organized and allow your professor to follow your ideas. This is very simple and easy to do, as your heading could be “Fran v. Connor- Assault.” A simple heading like this shows the reader who the parties are and what the cause of action is for.
- ★ **Listen to your professor.** Listen to your professor to see what they are looking for. Your professor is the person grading your exam, so you should pay careful attention to what format they want.
- ★ **Practice before the exam.** You should practice writing out exam answers in the format that your professor wants before you get to the exam. Practice makes progress, and you will feel more confident and comfortable on the exam if you have practiced before.