Workshop #2: Pulling It Together

Creating an Effective Exam-Targeted Outline

Reichi Lee
Director, Academic Development Program
relee@ggu.edu
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You’ve heard it before...

In law school, we:

★ READ in IRAC
★ THINK in IRAC
★ BRIEF in IRAC
★ OUTLINE in IRAC
★ ANSWER in IRAC
Timing of Preparation

Weeks 1 - 4
- Figuring things out; getting used to your schedule
- Reading, briefing for class = ~90-100% of your "studying" time
- Post-class review and outlining = ~0-10%

Weeks 5 - 13
- Still reading, briefing (maybe margin briefing) for class = ~30 - 40%
- Post-class review and outlining = ~60-70%
- Untimed MCQ and portions of essay practice

Weeks 14 - 16
- Finishing up on outlining
- Cutting down outlines
- Memorizing
- Timed MCQ and full length essay practice
Why do we outline?

- Process of outlining = learning the law
- Takes a LARGE amount of information on a topic and boils it down to its CORE (what lawyers do!)
- The way it looks may vary from person to person
- As long as it reflects your understanding of the law
What’s an “Exam-Targeted” Outline?

- Serves as a roadmap to how you would answer a question on the exam
- Uses IRAC
- Organized by concepts, NOT cases!
- Contains precise rule statements, then breaks rule down into its component parts
- Accounts for exceptions, nuances and variations
Importantly...

★ It is a SYNTHESIS of your material, NOT a compilation
★ It is thorough, yet PRECISE (rule of thumb = 10 pages or less per subject)
Other Helpful Study Tools

- Flashcards
- Diagrams

BUT KNOW THE RULES!
Other Helpful Study Tools (cont.)

[Image: A yellow sticky note with the word "Offer" written on it.]

The note says, "Offer."
Offer is a manifestation of one’s willingness to enter into a bargain, such that it creates a power of acceptance in another person; if accepted, a contract is formed.
Offers must be:
1. Communicate an intent to enter into a K (≠ invitations for offers, i.e., ads, catalogs)

2. Define & certain terms = enough essential terms so that K is enforceable
   - sale of goods → quantity
   - real estate → land & price

3. Communicated to offeree (knowledge of offer)
Elements of K

- Mutual Assent
- Consideration
  - Offer
  - Acceptance
  - Bargain for exchange
  - "Substitute" for consideration (i.e., promissory estoppel, detrimental reliance, good faith in modification, variance, etc.)
  - Mistake
    - No defenses to formation
    - Lack of capacity
    - Illegal / Anti-Public Policy
    - Statute of Frauds
Sample Ineffective/Effective Outlines
(see handout)
In Summary

★ Start now
★ Be thorough yet precise
★ Don’t put stuff in your outline that you don’t understand!
★ Cut down your outlines even more before exams
★ Test your outline to see if it “works” by doing practice MCQs and essays open-outline
★ See ADP for feedback
Week 6

*Crushing the Multiple Choice:*
Avoiding Traps and Picking the “Best” Answer

LS1: Monday, Sept. 19, 12:00-1:00, Room 2202
LS2: Wednesday, Sept. 21, 12:00-1:00, Room 2202
LSN: Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5:15-6:15, Room 2203