

LAWYERING SKILLS III
Week 14 Graded Assignment:
Final Appellate Brief Grading Rubric

Student Number:

Category	Points Possible	Points Earned
Caption		
Correct formatting and content	2	
Table of Contents		
Correct formatting	3	
Correct content	3	
Table of Authorities		
Correct formatting	3	
Correct content	3	
Correct use of citations	3	
Comments:		
SUBTOTAL CAPTION, TABLE OF CONTENTS, TABLE OF AUTHORITIES	17	
Questions Presented		
State the correct issues	2	
State the applicable law	1	
State a legal question	1	
Include legally significant facts	2	
Are persuasive	2	
Focus on the client's point of view	2	
Are one sentence each	1	
Do not contain arguments or legal conclusions	1	
Comments:		
SUBTOTAL QUESTION PRESENTED	12	
Standard of Review		
Chose appropriate standard(s)	2	
Includes citation to support standard(s)	1	
Indicates why standard(s) applies	2	
Comments:		
SUBTOTAL STANDARD OF REVIEW	5	

Statement of the Case and Facts (two separate sections for Dean Meldrum)		
Relevant procedural history is provided	2	
Does not contain arguments or legal conclusions	2	
Focuses on the client's point of view	2	
Has a theme that is conveyed throughout the facts	2	
The theme is effective	1	
All legally significant facts are included	2	
Does not contain unnecessary background facts	2	
The facts are easily understood	2	
Persuasive writing techniques are used to the extent appropriate (in particular, unfavorable facts are subordinated)	2	
Includes proper citation to the record after every sentence	2	
Comments:		
SUBTOTAL STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND FACTS		19
Summary of Argument		
Does not merely repeat the issues, points presented for review, or the conclusion	2	
States the facts necessary to place the issues in context	2	
Explains each step in the argument leading to the conclusion the court should reach	2	
Requests relief	1	
Is succinct, clear, and accurate	2	
Reader can understand it after reading it once	2	
Citation use is limited	1	
Is persuasive	2	
Conveys the theme	1	
Comments:		
SUBTOTAL SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT		15
Argument Headings		
Are four lines or less	1	
Include a conclusion that the court should accept or an action the court should take	2	
Include the reason the court should agree with the conclusion or take the action	2	
Are persuasive	2	
Focus on the client's point of view	2	
Are one sentence	1	
Clearly state the arguments being made in the brief	2	
Have effective organization	2	
Comments:		
SUBTOTAL ARGUMENT HEADINGS		14

Arguments		
Rules and rule explanations are stated separately from and before the analysis	3	
Rule explanations contain the required components in the required order	5	
Topic sentences are used to begin rule explanations and argument paragraphs	3	
Arguments are clear, persuasive, and adequately supported by authority	5	
Arguments are based on the stated and discussed rules	5	
Arguments make effective use of facts from discussed cases	5	
The theme is conveyed throughout the arguments	3	
Opponent's valid counter arguments and authorities are anticipated and rebutted using affirmative arguments	5	
The reader can understand each argument without having to draw inferences or make analytical leaps	5	
Well organized and readable	3	
Logical space allocation	3	
Thoroughly researched	5	
Correct full citation form and use	3	
Correct short citation form and use	3	
Citations used where required	4	
Additional comments:		
SUBTOTAL ARGUMENT		60
Conclusion		
Concisely summarizes the stated arguments	2	
Requests relief	2	
Certificate of Service		
Correct formatting and content	1	
Affidavit Regarding 5,000 Word Compliance		
Correct formatting and content	3	
Formatting and Writing Skills		
Concise writing	3	
Spelling, grammar, and punctuation	3	
Followed formatting directions	3	
Is organized and easy to follow	3	
SUBTOTAL CONCLUSION, CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE, AFFIDAVIT, FORMATTING AND WRITING SKILLS		20
TOTAL		162
Deduction: 20 points for having less than 5,000 words or more than 5,700, words as designated in the assignment directions. A minimum of 5 Briefs per section will be randomly checked for word count.		
Deduction: up to 5 points for the exclusion or lack of quality of the jurisdictional statement (in Dean Meldrum's class).		

FINAL TOTAL	
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