

Contents

Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	xiii
Case File: Carlile	xix
 Chapter 1 • I Haven't Begun Yet and I Already Feel Lost	 3
Problem: I'm Intimidated by Legal Writing	3
Problem: I Don't Understand a Legal Reader's Expectations	5
Problem: I Don't Understand the Stages of the Legal Writing Process	8
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Getting Started	11
Problem: I'm the Only Student in My Legal Writing Class Who Isn't Getting It	13
 Chapter 2 • I'm Having Trouble Managing My Research Process	 15
Problem: I Don't Know How to Begin Researching	16
Problem: I Can't Find the Perfect Case I Am Looking For	19
Problem: My Searches Are Yielding Too Many Sources	20
Problem: My Searches Are Yielding Little to No Relevant Authority	21
Problem: I Don't Know When I Have Done Enough Research	23
 Chapter 3 • I'm Having Trouble Transitioning from Prewriting to Writing	 25
Problem: I Don't Know How to Prepare to Start Writing	26
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Coming to a Conclusion	29
Problem: I Don't Understand When and How to Use Headings	31
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Deciding Which Authorities to Use	33
 Chapter 4 • I'm Having Trouble Organizing My Analysis	 37
Problem: I Don't Know How to Use the Law to Organize My Analysis	38
Problem: My Organization Is Fact-Based Instead of Issue-Based	40
Problem: I Don't Understand Umbrella Sections	42

Problem: I Don't Understand Roadmaps	47
Chapter 5 · I'm Having Trouble Writing and Explaining Legal Rules	49
Problem: I Don't Understand How to Do Rule Synthesis	50
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Framing My Synthesized Rule	55
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Explaining the Rule	57
Problem: I'm Quoting Too Much from Authorities	61
Problem: I Don't Understand How to Paraphrase Effectively	67
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Using Explanatory Parentheticals	68
Chapter 6 · I'm Having Trouble with Application and Analysis	73
Problem: I'm Not Showing the Reader How and Why the Facts Are Legally Significant	74
Problem: My Discussion of Facts Is Too General	79
Problem: I Don't Understand How to Deal with Negative Facts	80
Problem: I'm Using Non-Legally Significant Facts in My Analysis	83
Problem: I'm Relying on Quotations from the Authorities to Do the Analysis	85
Problem: I Don't Know How to Use My Rule Statement to Organize My Application	86
Problem: I Introduced New Legal Principles in My Application	89
Chapter 7 · I'm Having Trouble with the Smaller Components of Legal Writing	93
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Writing a Question Presented/Issue Statement	93
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Writing a Brief Answer/Argument Summary	96
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Writing a Statement of Facts	98
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Writing Headings	100
Chapter 8 · I'm Having Trouble Polishing My Writing	105
Problem: I'm Using Too Much Legalese	106
Problem: I'm Having Trouble Talking about the Law	109
Problem: I Feel Like My Writing Is Too Redundant	110
Problem: I'm Having Trouble with Tone	111
Problem: I Need a Refresher on Grammar and Punctuation Basics	112
Problem: I Don't Understand Why Citation Matters	115
Problem: I Don't Understand How to Use the <i>Bluebook</i>	120

CONTENTS

ix

Problem: I Spend Too Much Time on Citation	120
Appendix A	123
Appendix B	139
Index	153