

*****SAMPLE BLUEBOOK EXERCISE INSTRUCTIONS*****

*****DO NOT RELY ON FOR PETITION*****

JOURNAL OF LAW & INEQUALITY
JOURNAL OF LAW, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW

The Bluebook Exercise is designed to evaluate each petitioner's ability to uniformly apply the Bluebook rules to a series of citation footnotes. The required version of the Bluebook for this exercise is the 20th Edition.

PROCESS:

The petitioner should edit the attached pages for the following:

Spelling: Correct all spelling errors. Consult a dictionary for spelling and usage if necessary. All personal proper names are spelled correctly. Other proper nouns may or may not be spelled correctly. The proper spellings of applicable Internet URLs are provided in the Source Key.

Punctuation: Correct all punctuation errors. Add or delete punctuation as required by the Bluebook. Please note: When citing material that spans more than one page, give the inclusive numbers, separated by an en dash (–), not a hyphen (-).

Capitalization, Italicization, and Underlining: Correct all typeface errors as required by the Bluebook.

Abbreviations: Ensure that abbreviation, numeral, and symbol use conforms to the Bluebook. Be prepared to abbreviate unabbreviated words.

Citation Format: Ensure that each citation sentence conforms to the Bluebook. The source type for each source has been provided in the Source Key.

Other Errors: Other errors not specified may be present in this exercise, and should be corrected. However, the following assumptions apply:

- All pin cites are accurate, but not necessarily correctly formatted.
- All dates are accurate, but not necessarily correctly formatted.
- All explanatory parentheticals are accurate, but not necessarily correctly formatted.
- All personal names are spelled correctly, but not necessarily correctly formatted.
- All internal cross-references refer to the correct source, but are not necessarily correctly formatted.

Bluebook Reference: All corrections made in accordance with a Bluebook rule should be accompanied by the applicable rule and/or table number(s) in the margin.

Outside Material: The sources used in this exercise are not readily available and petitioners may not attempt to verify the substantive accuracy of the citations. Though not required for this exercise, general edits for grammar (e.g., “to” vs. “too”) should be resolved following the standards in the Chicago Manual of Style.

Final Product: The petitioner should hand in **only one copy** of the Bluebook Exercise, **hand-edited in blue or red ink**. Attachments will not be considered. Petitioners are encouraged to use Pilot Frixion erasable pens (blue or red ink only) for this exercise. Pencil may not be used on the final submitted copy. Photocopies of the completed exercise may not be submitted. Petitioners are strongly encouraged to make their edits on one of the two provided copies before using the second to create a clean, perfectly legible, final copy for submission. If any portion of the exercise is illegible, that portion will not be graded. If you need additional copies of the exercise, you may print them from the digital packet copy, the link for which is included in your petition packet.

Submission Format: The Bluebook Exercise **may not be submitted electronically**. It must be submitted in hard copy. There is a very narrow exception to this rule for students who will be outside of the country when their petition is due. Please email mnpetitionquestions@gmail.com if you think you may qualify for this exception.

Anonymity Reminder: The Bluebook Exercise submission must have the petition number in the appropriate space at the top of each page. **Do not put your name or any information that would identify you anywhere on the Bluebook Exercise.**

SCORING:

The Bluebook Exercise will be scored to reflect the petitioner's ability to uniformly apply the Bluebook rules to a series of citation footnotes. The scoring system rewards careful application of the Bluebook rules while discouraging unnecessary edits.

- **One point will be added for each correct edit.** An edit is correct if and only if it is required by the Bluebook or these instructions.
- **One point will be added to each edit accompanied by a correct Bluebook reference.** A Bluebook reference is correct if and only if it states the rule(s) and/or table(s) showing that an edit or group of edits is required. No more than one point will be added per edit for a correct Bluebook reference.
- **One point will be subtracted for each incorrect, non-permissive edit.** An incorrect edit is one that is not required by the Bluebook or these instructions. But no points will be subtracted for an edit indicating sound editorial judgment, especially when accompanied by a precise Bluebook reference.
- **A blank exercise will receive a score of zero points.**