2019 LAW JOURNAL PETITIONING
BLUEBOOK EXERCISE INSTRUCTIONS

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.

** SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONS: DO NOT RELY ON FOR PETITION **

<u>**Outside Material:**</u> The sources used in this exercise are not readily available and petitioners may not attempt to verify the substantive accuracy of the citations.

<u>**Final Product:**</u> 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.

<u>**Submission Format:**</u> The Bluebook Exercise **may not be submitted electronically**. It must be submitted in hard copy.

<u>**Anonymity Reminder:**</u> 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.**

<u>**Scoring:**</u>

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.**

Strategies for Tackling the Bluebook Exercise
Developed by Nadia Wood

*All references are to the twentieth edition of the Bluebook

First, assume you are going to make multiple passes at the exercise. You can either go through the same copy multiple times adding things as you go or, if you wish, do multiple "takes" and merge them together at the end. Keep in mind that the petition packet comes with two copies of the Bluebook Exercise, but you can make copies or print additional copies from the .pdf file of the packet you have been given. Remember that the final version you turn in must include all of your markups and be done in blue or red ink.

Next, locate the low hanging fruit. Start with three simple things you can do to earn yourself buckets of easy Bluebooking points on the exercise:
- First, scan the **ends** of the footnotes. **Every footnote must end with a period.** Don't think about the Bluebooking format. All you are scanning for is the ending period. It is a difficult error to spot if you are thinking about minute details of a difficult citation contained in the footnote. It is incredibly easy to see, however, if it is all you are looking for.
    - Fix the ending punctuation. Attribute the correction to BB 1.1(b)(i) ("The citation sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a period.")
- Now, scan the beginning of each footnote. First letter of every footnote, whether a signal or a first letter of the source, **must be capitalized** – same rule.
    - Fix those, and cite to BB 1.1(b)(i).
- Finally, do a final pass over the text. **Only look for signals.** Nothing else! Most of the signals will be in the beginning, but there will be some buried in the middle of the footnotes. **Every signal must be italicized!** BB 2.1(d). Unless, of course it is a verb in an ordinary sentence.
- Ditto for the words *supra* or *infra*.

REMEMBER TO WRITE DOWN THE BLUEBOOK RULE FOR EACH CORRECTION OR YOU WILL ONLY GET HALF THE POINTS!!!!

More easy fixes:
- **Check spelling!** Read the footnotes ignoring the formatting. Only read the text, one word at a time. Sound it out. Double check with a dictionary, if you have to. There will likely be several spelling errors.
- **Check all URLs.** The correct URL is provided in the source list. Make sure it matches what is in the citation.
- **Track pesky commas:**
    - *e.g.*, is the only signal followed by **a non-italicized comma**, if any other signal has it, remove it and cite to BB 1.2. But if combined with another signal, *e.g.*, must be **preceded** by an **italicized comma**: "*But see, e.g.*," Same rule.
    - Look at the example on page 59 to figure out punctuation in "*compare . . . with . . .*" signal format (hint: there should be a comma in the middle between the two clauses, right before *with* or *and*).

- o In addition, "*supra* note XX, at" always has comma before the "at." If *supra* is used alone without the note number because the source is in the same footnote, the comma always immediately follows *supra*. BB 4.2.
- **Check capitalization per BB 8.**
- Pair up **parenthesis**. Whenever one opens, there must be a matching one closing it. Count to even numbers.
- Same thing with **quotation marks**.
- Check **spacing in the reporters** per **BB 6.1.** Favorite ones are "S.D.N.Y." and "F. Supp. 2d" and "N.W.2d" and alike.
- Check **numerals** per **BB 6.2**, particularly "2d" and "3d."
- Check for a period after et. in **"et al."** – there should not be one there! **BB 15.1(b).**
- Look for **repetitious digits** in page numbers, or too many dropped digits: "61–9" is incorrect, so is "128–129." **BB 3.2(a).**
- In any footnote that has more than one source, check **the order of authorities**. **BB 1.4.**
- Check that multiple sources **within the same signal** are separated by semicolons. **BB 1.3.**
- *See also* never starts a new sentence! If you see it capitalized, something's wrong. *But see* and *contra*, however, should always start a new sentence, and if you see them strung together with semicolons and in lower case, something's wrong, too.
- § never starts a sentence. **BB 6.2 (c).**
- There should not be an "at" before a **section** or a **paragraph** symbol. **BB 3.3.**
- Look for **superscripts**, circle them, and put a dot underneath. They are always wrong.
- **Ellipsis** must have spacing in between the dots, and never start a quotation. Check every material that involves a quote very carefully against **Rule 5.**
- In case names, look for **"vs."** instead of "v." Fix, cite to **BB 10.**
- Check that when the **United States** is a name of the party in a case, it is spelled out as "United States" and not abbreviated as "U.S." or "U.S. of America." **BB 10.2.2.**
- Check **punctuation**: commas and periods go inside the quotation marks; other punctuation marks go on the outside. **BB 5.1(b)(iv).**
- Check **case name abbreviations** against T.6, **month names** abbreviations against T12, **periodical names** against T.13, and **geographical terms** against T.10.

The checklist above should let you rack up a large number of points—and you have not even started to analyze the citations! This was all purely mechanical work. Now the real work begins. **You should look at each citation carefully, consider the nature of the source (from the source list), find a corresponding Rule in the Bluebook, and check the format against that Rule.** Don't be afraid to set the exercise aside, and come back to it later. You will see additional errors you missed on the first pass.

Here are some more general, strategic suggestions on how to handle the Bluebook Exercise:[1]
1. Assume that each footnote has at least one error. More likely, each footnote will have multiple errors. If you have not found any errors in a footnote, check again. [From Nadia:

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[1] These suggestions are adapted from EUGENE VOLOKH, ACADEMIC LEGAL WRITING 229–31 (3d ed. 2007).

in a prior year, at least one source had no errors whatsoever to challenge petitioner's sanity. I have no idea if that scenario will repeat itself this year. Petitioners beware!]

2. Once you've found one error, or one set of errors, don't relax. Devious test designers will often throw in some errors that fall into one genre (for instance, citation format errors) and others that fall into another (for instance, grammatical errors in the citation parenthetical). It is easy to get distracted by the first set of errors you find, and stop thinking about other kinds of errors.

3. Don't let that happen to you: For every footnote you check, don't stop until you've thought of all the ways that the material might be wrong. Keep a mental checklist of the various things that you need to check for each footnote-such as the signal, the case name format, the format of the rest of each citation, the grammar and spelling in the parentheticals, the rules for short forms, and so on-and make sure that you check each item for each citation in each footnote.

4. Compare the various citations you are asked to check to see if you can spot any inconsistencies. Seeing "U. S." written with a space might not make you think there's anything wrong; but seeing it written with a space in one place and without a space in another should remind you that at least one of the citations is incorrect.

5. Expect the Bluebook Exercise to take at least several days. It is very time-consuming! Even one sentence in one footnote could take you a long time, as you check all the rules that may apply to it. (Use the index in the back!)

6. Alternating between working on the petition and doing the exercise can help freshen your thinking on both.

THAT'S ALL! GOOD LUCK!!!

Dashes Tutorial

Here's a quick reminder to check for accurate use of the three types of dashes. A more detailed account is included in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, starting at 6.80.

The hypen. The hyphen is the shortest dash. Writers typically use the hyphen to separate numbers that are non-inclusive and to connect two words modifying a noun.

"My social security number is 123-45-6789."
"MONT. CODE ANN. § 75-1-301 (2002)."
"National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. No. 91-190, 83 Stat. 852 (1970)."

"It wasn't me, it was the one-armed man."
"There is nothing better than pan-seared walleye."

For the nitty-gritty of whether to spell something as two words, hyphenate, or close it up as a single word, first check the dictionary. If the word isn't in the dictionary, *The Chicago Manual of Style* offers guidelines for treatment of compounds according to their grammatical function. Take a look at 7.82–90 and 5.92–93.

The en dash. The en dash is the middle-sized dash. Among other things, the en-dash denotes a range of something. Although the Bluebook permits it, *The Minnesota Law Review* does *not* allow the use of a hyphen in this context. If you every encounter an article with lots of statutes, you will *know* why we still use en dashes.

"*See supra* notes 128–36."
"MOORE ET AL., *supra* note 5, ¶¶ 54.32–.36."
"Barbara Ward, *Progress for a Small Planet*, HARV. BUS. REV., Sept.–Oct. 1979, at 89, 90."

The em dash. The em dash is the longest dash. Most often, the em dash sets off amplifying or explanatory elements of a sentence.

"The 2L—never one to be outdone—spent over 60 hours citechecking!"
"My friends—that is my former friends—ganged up on me."
"Will he—rather, *can* he—obtain the necessary signatures?"

There should not be spaces on either side of any of these dashes.

There are other appropriate uses for these dashes, but this memo should take you 90 percent of the way. *The Chicago Manual of Style* will take you home. Use it. Let it take you home.

SOURCE KEY

- TUCKER CHAMBERS "But, . . .   Work in Collection (same author)
- *Brad Hutter v. Philip . . .*   Case
- *Brian Grady,* They'll never. . .   Book

1. See TUCKER CHAMBERS "But, where do we draw the line?' in *Judicial Studies of gunning,* 322,

328-329 (Emily Marshall editor (2013) (discussed the benefits of gunning with impunity.)), *Brad*

Hutter v. Philip Black, 322 A. 2d, 261,at 263 (1985)("But professor, Where do we draw the

line?" For a discussion on contemporary attitudes about guners, *see*, e.g*., Brian Grady,* They'll

never know! Fifth edition, 1998).

EDITING SYMBOLS

The following editing symbols are preferred:

prof. powell	Capitalize Letter	St. Paul MN	Insert Comma
Constitutional	lowercase	Bobs apple	Insert Apostrophe
Minn. L. Rev.	LARGE & SM. CAPS	what?	Insert Quotation Mark
GOPHER	Normal Caps	1059-99	Insert en dash
Structuralist	*Italicize*	word-word	Insert em dash
Structuralist	Un-italicize	quasi legal	Insert hyphen
He walked. She ran.	New Paragraph	abbr SP.	Spell Out/ Un-abbreviate
Once upon	Tab	taht	Transpose
good bye	Close Space	I fun had	
thedogjumped	Add Space	stet.	Retain as is (Undo)
phrase [phrase]	Delete Phrase or Sentence	101st	Remove Superscript
citation	Delete Letter/Word	KC	KeyCited Statute/Case
John ate Peter	Insert (generally)	three; one; two	Rearrange/ Order of Authority
He ran fast	Insert Period		

The following is a familiar example of an edited citation:

[101] *Conditional Spend ing: Federalisms Trojan Horse* Thomas R. McCoy & Barry Friedman,

BB 2.1
1988 Supreme Court Review 85, 100,
BB 16
BB 16.3
T.13

Which would ultimately result in:

[101] Thomas R. McCoy & Barry Friedman, *Conditional Spending: Federalism's Trojan Horse*, 1988 SUP. CT. REV. 85, 100.