

STETSON UNIVERSITY

Institute for the Advancement
of Legal Communication

What Are You Teaching, Anyway?

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What Are You Teaching, Anyway?



Teaching legal writing is teaching professional identity and membership in a discourse community.

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Radical Idea #1: Communication, not law, is the core curriculum of the legal writing teacher and the practice of the lawyer.

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Radical Idea #2: The survival of the rule of law turns on how effectively we enable students transition their professional identity.

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Teaching legal writing is rhetorical, through and through.

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Radical idea #3: The substance of what we in legal writing teach is rhetoric—how to influence (and interpret) the thoughts and actions of others in a legal discourse community.