



*Using Self-Assessment Worksheets:
Check Your Students' Comprehension,
Improve Your Conferences,
And Streamline Your Grading*

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Background and Context

- Teaching First-Year Legal Writing Since 2006.
- Also Taught Orientation and Academic Support Classes.
- Recently, Switched Universities.
 - In the middle of the Zoom School of Law era.

My Evolution with Self- Assessment Worksheets

- Started with Grading First Drafts of a Memo
 - Index Cards with Questions
 - Grew into Targeted Worksheet on Drafts
- Getting Better: My Self-Assessment

What are my weaknesses as a teacher?

1. Worksheets for First Drafts
2. Worksheets as Conference Springboards
3. Worksheets for Early Reality Checks

Please complete this worksheet as you finish your draft and turn it in with the draft. Ideally, you will complete the worksheet with enough time to make revisions to improve your draft.

You can handwrite your answers or cut-and-paste them into your own document. A blank copy of the document is available on TWEN. Remember to preserve your anonymity on this document.

First, please list your subpoint headings (As, Bs, etc.) that support these assertions. Also, label where you raised any counterarguments.

I. Web-only businesses like ApplesFeed must/need not comply with the ADA.

II. ApplesFeed did/did not discriminate against Trager by failing to provide effective communication via auxiliary aids.

Second, please identify the following:

1. What section of your Argument is the most persuasive?
2. What section of the Argument concerns you the most?

Sample First-Draft Worksheet

Why Use First-Draft Worksheets?

Advantages:

- You control what they provide.
- Great for Large-Scale Organization “Pull-Back.”
- What Don’t They Know. Still.

Disadvantages:

- Another page to grade?
- Consistency in Responses.

Sample Conference- Springboard Worksheet*

*Credit to my former colleague,
Anita Kay Head, for her initial draft
of this worksheet.

Self-Assessment

Your self-assessment will focus on your analysis paragraphs.

On your draft, does each Analysis paragraph serve one (or more) of these roles:

Identification, Comparisons/Contrasts, Evaluation?

If not, what's missing?

Then answer the following questions:

1. Which is the strongest Analysis paragraph in your draft? Identify the paragraph by line numbers: Line ____--_____. Explain why it's your strongest section of analysis:

Pick a paragraph that you think is weaker. What is different about that paragraph compared to the one you identified as your best?

2. What is still confusing to you about writing Analysis paragraphs?

3. Improve one topic sentence from an analysis paragraph. Identify where it currently appears in your draft: Line _____. Now, write a revised version of this sentence. Make sure it identifies the analytical category you are discussing as it relates to Rose. (Hint: it might correspond to a "hook" in your rule section.)

Why Use Conference- Springboard Worksheets?



Advantages:

Allows Students to Use
Feedback

Provides Talking Points
for Conference

Map for Follow-up and
Future Work



Disadvantages:

Varying Level of Effort

No Worksheet, No
Conference

Overthinking It?

Sample Early- Assessment Worksheet

CRAC Exercise Self-Assessment Worksheet

Name: _____

Use this document to assess how well you wrote each section of the CRAC. You can either fill it out during class or complete it afterward. Please upload your assessment to ICON after you answer all of the questions.

The Concept

Did you correctly identify the question at issue?

The Rule Section

You should have started with a general rule about unreasonable risk or duty. This sentence could have served as a “hook” to introduce the Bowles case. Were you satisfied with the “hook” that began your case illustration? Why not?

Which “trigger facts” from Bowles did you include to show the parameters of the “scope of activity” standard?

How well did you explain the court’s reasoning?

The Analysis

You should have engaged in analogical reasoning. Can you find each of these parts in your analysis paragraphs? What is missing?

Identification, Factual Comparisons/Contrasts, Evaluation.

The Conclusion

Did you provide your reader with an answer to the issue you raised at the beginning of this CRAC?

Overall Assessment

1. What portion of your CRAC is the strongest?
2. Where do you see the most opportunity for improvement?

Advantages:

Allows
Incremental
Analysis.

Great for
Notetaking &
Pauses.

Sets Expectations
Early.



Disadvantages:

Slows Internalization?

Manage Expectations.

Why Use
Early-
Assessment
Worksheets?

Final Thoughts

No Regrets. Only Edits.



Learned About Myself as a Teacher.



Happy To Share Samples



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