

It's Alive!

Breathing New Life Into Old Topics

Capital Area Legal Writing Conference

University of Maryland

March 2016

Professors Hugh Mundy, Amanda Foster & Olympia Duhart

Even in 2016, the Basics Still Matter

- Expanded view of LRW
- But...basics skills are still essential
- Students arriving with more limited skills
- Firms less interested in on-the-job training



How do you keep students interested?





How to
Revive
Some of
the basics

–

Some are
“Deadly”
Boring

Hierarchy of
Authority

Parenthetical
Citations

Writing and
Editing

How to
Revive
Some of
the basics
–
Some are
“Deadly”
Boring

Hierarchy of
Authority

Smart Phone

Parenthetical
Citations

Popular
Magazines

Writing and
Editing

Disco Ball

Hierarchy of
Authority

Parenthetical
Citation

Writing and
Editing

Use a Smartphone

Why Wurie?

Teaching Court Structure and Hierarachy

Hugh Mundy, The John
Marshall Law School



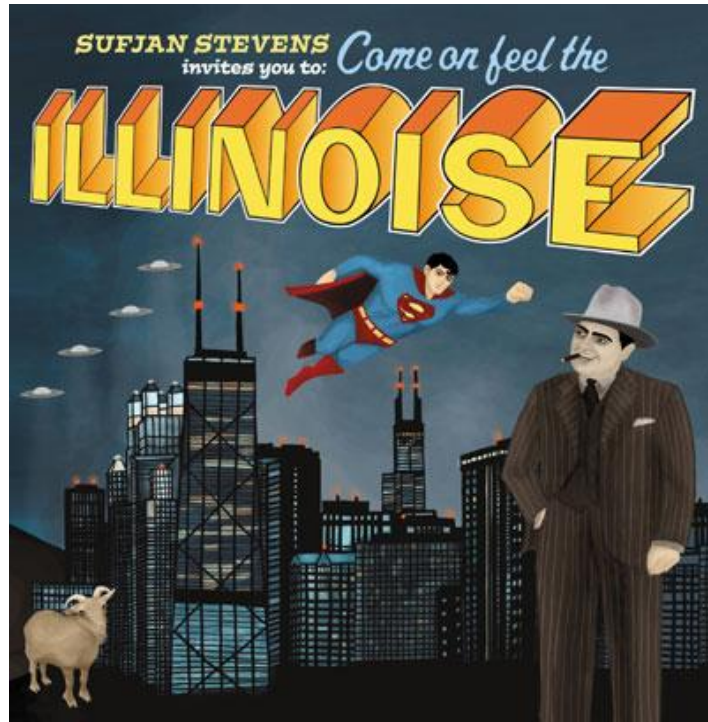
Court Hierarchy: Coma-Inducing, Yet Critical

- Essential to understanding binding legal authority.
- Foundational for strong case briefing and analysis.
- Fundamental for effective legal research and writing.



The Parallel Court Structure

State and Federal Courts

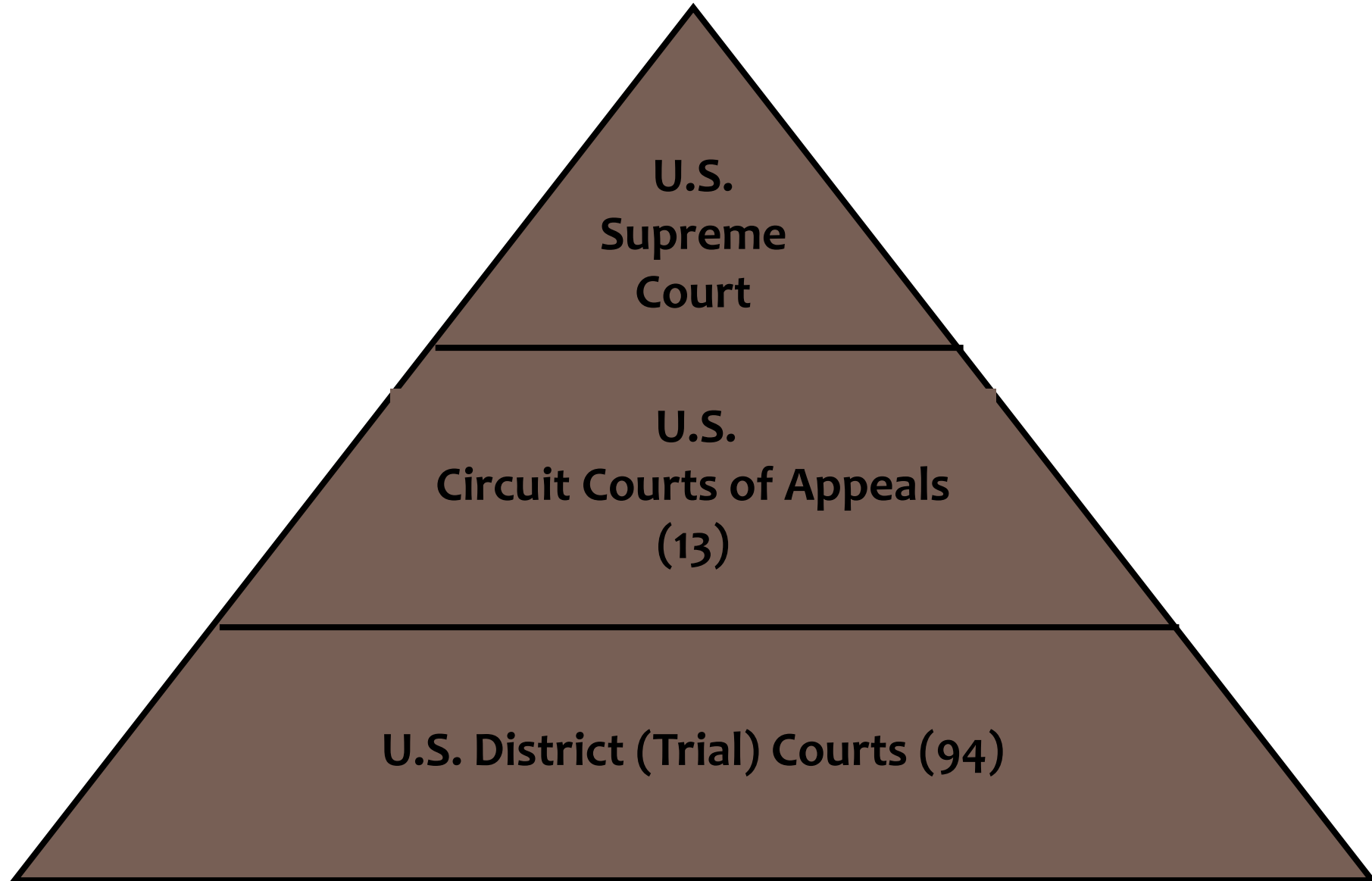


The Federal Court System

Article III of the U.S. Constitution places the judicial power of the federal government in “one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts” as Congress might decide to establish.



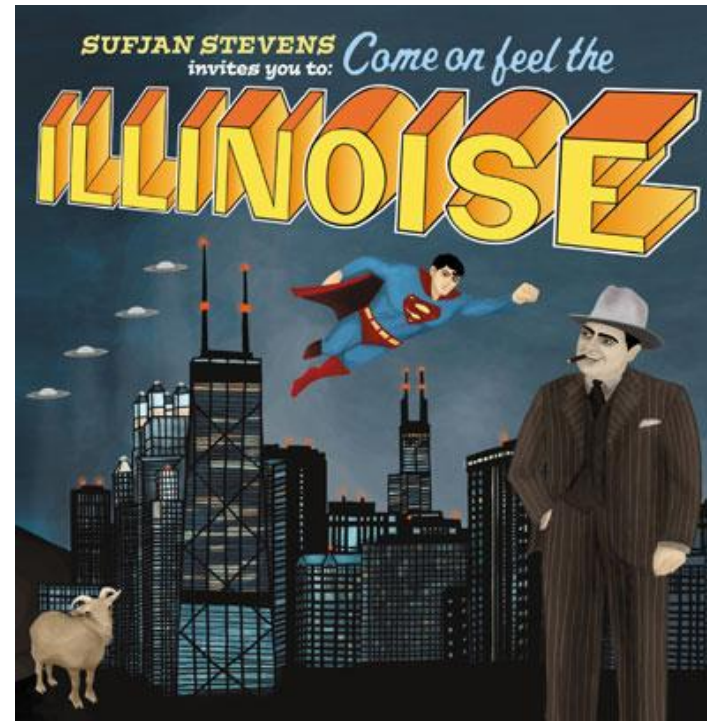
The Federal Court System



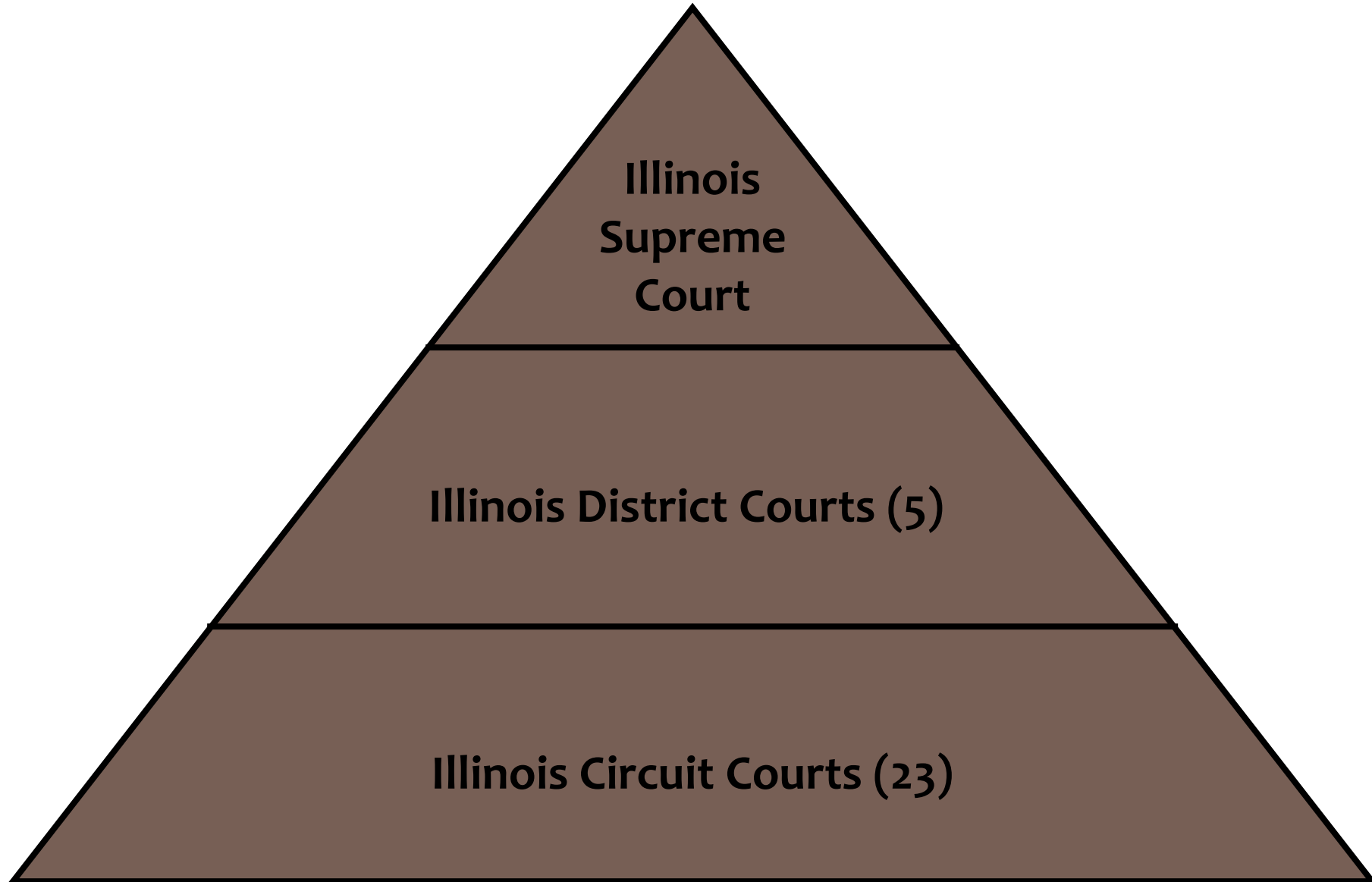
The Illinois Court System

Article VI of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 (the Judicial Article) provides for a unified, three-tiered judiciary system.

With a possible “fourth” tier!



The Illinois Court System



Using Riley and Wurie

- Final ruling?
- Dates?
- Points of origin?
- Rule of law?



Hierarchy of
Authority

Parentetical
Citations

Writing and
Editing

Use popular
magazines

How can we use the news to help teach about explanatory parentheticals?

The New York Times



Bindi Irwin ON DANCING, DATING & MAKING DAD PROUD P.68

People

ONLY IN People

MY OWN STORY

"I'll always be there for him—like I promised"

Finally! THE RETURN OF ADELE

MISSING BOY His Mom's Chilling Vow 'YOU'LL NEVER FIND HIM'

Khloé Kardashian Breaks Her Silence

The reality star spoke to *People* about her new life—just hours before Lamar Odom was found unconscious. Now Khloé opens up about her bedside vigil and what's next. Plus An exclusive excerpt from her revealing new book

WEEKLY

Us

Exclusive Photos WE'RE HAVING A BABY!

Will Comforts Kate BEDRIDDEN PRINCESS

Mila & Ashton MEET OUR BABY WYATT!

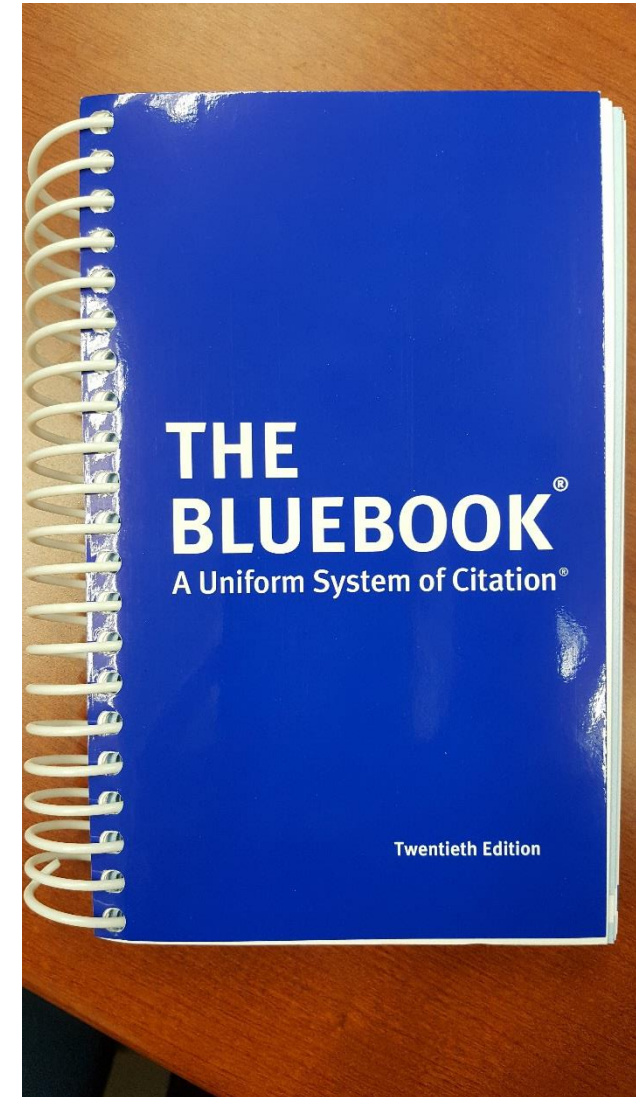
TERESA & JOE GO TO JAIL

We Destroyed Our Family

The Giudices lived a life of luxury built on lies — now their kids are paying the price. Inside their last days together and what she hasn't told her girls

- Explanatory parentheticals

Added to briefly explain the proposition for which the case stands.



How do you choose the words for your explanatory parenthetical?

words *Words* **Words**
words words *words*
Words **Words**
words **Words**

This docket is current through 03/04/2016

Current Date: 3/4/2016

Source: SUPERIOR COURT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

CASE INFORMATION

Case Title:	KHLOE KARDASHIAN ODOM v. LAMAR JOSEPH ODOM
Court:	SUPERIOR COURT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
Division:	CENTRAL DISTRICT
Case Number:	BD593072
Case Type:	CIVIL
Case Subtype:	DOMESTIC RELATIONS
Description:	DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (GENERAL JURISDICTION)
Date Filed:	12/13/2013
Case Status:	DISMISSED - OTHER 10/21/2015

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

ODOM KHLOE KARDASHIAN

Type:

PETITIONER

ODOM LAMAR JOSEPH

Type:

RESPONDENT

ATTORNEY INFORMATION

LAURA ALLISON WASSER

Khloe Kardashian Odom v. Lamar Odom
The Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

Exercise:

On December 13, 2013, Khloe Kardashian Odom filed a petition for dissolution of marriage from her husband, Lamar Odom. The couple married on September 27, 2009. Mrs. Odom cited “irreconcilable differences” for the reason for seeking a divorce. On October 21, 2015, Mr. and Mrs. Odom filed a request for dismissal without prejudice of this divorce petition. The court held that a request for dismissal of a divorce petition should be granted if it is unopposed by either party or jointly filed. Therefore, the court granted this jointly filed, unopposed motion.

If you wanted to cite this case for the purpose of providing support for dismissal of a divorce petition at the request of a party, what would you use as the parenthetical information?

*hint – start with an –ing word.

Possibilities:

(holding that a request for dismissal of a divorce petition should be granted if it is unopposed by either party or jointly filed).

(granting a request for dismissal of a divorce petition because it was unopposed by either party and jointly filed).

Hierarchy of
Authority

Parenthetical
Citations

Writing and
Editing

Use a disco ball



Duhart's
LRW Lounge
Thursday
Feb. 17
6 p.m.- Midnight

Admission: One "Draft"

Reviving Writing & Editing Instruction



Objectives

- Teaching students to complete drafts in advance
- Helping students become better editors
- Building a community of writers
- Minimizing the stress associated with the writing process

Essentials

- Lots of hype!
- Explanation of ground rules
- Reinforcement (teaching assistants, law review members)
- Food
- Nonalcoholic drink
- Muzak
- Handouts on editing
- Patience and supportive attitude

Caveats

- Do not attempt to formally “teach” a class
- Do not abandon honor code guidelines
- Do not strictly enforce the hours
 - (Know when to wrap the party, and when to carry on the after-party)
- Do not admit uninvited guests
- Do not try anything that isn’t consistent with your teaching philosophy or personality

Student Reaction to the LRW Lounge

“I liked the LRW lounge. I participated and I liked that it gave us an informal atmosphere to write or ask questions. A lot of students do not take advantage of office hours for various reasons, so the LRW lounge is perfect to get questions answered and write.”

Student Reaction to the LRW Lounge

“The lounges were especially helpful if you came with a good amount of your writing already done, that way you could get a critique from the professor on your arguments – I got feedback on whether my arguments were logical, strong and framed in an appropriate manner. Then I knew what I had to edit.”

Student Reaction to LRW Lounge

“It is helpful as a first year student to spend time around a professor in a more casual manner. A lot of first year is intimidating from a student's perspective. I remember the lounges helped to tear down some of those barriers.”





Questions?



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