

Cite as: Kathryn S. Fehrman, *Legal Writing Professor's Lament (or, Because, Your Briefs)*, 24 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Res. & Writing 47 (2016).

Legal Writing Professor's Lament (or, Because, Your Briefs)

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My heart is rent asunder.
My eyes are crossed and red.
Your briefs are testimony
That you heard little I said.

Why, why, why have you forgotten
The format that we teach?
I-R-E-A-C is simple
It's not so out of reach.

What demon grabbed your keyboard,
To make you spell that way?
Don't you own a dictionary?
Then use it, please, I pray.

And why can't you remember
That your nice Bluebook said
To write out every number
Under one hundred?

Facts, things that happened, aren't a bunch
Of unrelated stuff.
They have some legal consequence;
How can that be so tough?

And oh, my sweet forgiveness
Is tried as your verbiage swells.
Those adjectives and adverbs!
Show me facts, and don't just tell.

Apostrophes and commas
Are now my big pet peeves.
I want to call the Panda—
The one who eats, shoots, leaves.

But worst of all: the rubric
I posted to help you write,
Says "Put this rubric with your brief,"
Yet only one of forty might.

But yes, my 1L students,
Even though your English ain't plain,
I'll stand with you until you learn
Or 'til I go insane.

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