

Handout 6
Final Writing Assignment

Write an essay responding to the following question: *Do court procedural rules adequately reflect the values and principles of American constitutional government?* Feel free to refer back to previous handouts from this Unit to help you respond; *Handout 4* may be particularly relevant.

Unit 1: Lesson 3
Introduction to Civil Rights and Litigation

Rubric

Quality	4 - Skilled	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Inadequate	Points Earned
INTRODUCTION Background/History Define the Problem Thesis Statement	Well-developed introductory paragraph contains detailed background information, a clear explanation or definition of the problem, and a thesis statement.	Introductory paragraph contains some background information and states the problem, but does not explain using details. States the thesis of the paper.	Introduction states the thesis but does not adequately explain the background of the problem. The problem is stated, but lacks detail.	Thesis and/or problem is vague or unclear. Background details are a seemingly random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic.	
CONCLUSION	Conclusion summarizes the main topics without repeating previous sentences; writer's opinions and suggestions for change are logical and well thought out.	Conclusion summarizes main topics. Some suggestions for change are evident.	Conclusion summarizes main topics, but is repetitive. No suggestions for change and/or opinions are included.	Conclusion does not adequately summarize the main points. No suggestions for change or opinions are included	
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs Refutation	Three or more main points are well developed with supporting details. Acknowledges the opposing view, and summarizes their main points.	Three or more main points are present but may lack detail and development in one or two. Acknowledges the opposing view, but doesn't summarize points.	Three or more main points, but all lack development. Refutation of opposing arguments missing and/or vague.	Less than three main points, with poor development of ideas. Refutation of opposing arguments missing and/or vague.	
CLARITY, PRECISION, AND ACCURACY OF WRITING Sentence Clarity Proper Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, etc.	The writer treats the subject seriously using formal language. All sentences are complete, accurate, and clear; the writer controls the point of view appropriately. Punctuation, spelling, and grammar are correct.	The writer uses some informal language and slang. Most sentences are complete, accurate and clear. Some awkward sentences do appear. There are one or two errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	Some unclear or confused sentences. Work contains structural weaknesses and grammatical errors. There are some errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	Many unclear or incomplete sentences. Work contains multiple incorrect sentence structures. There are several errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	
Total:					