

**Temple Law Review**  
**Temple Journal of Science, Technology & Environmental Law**  
**Temple International & Comparative Law Journal**  
**Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review**

**2007 WRITE-ON COMPETITION**

Dates for the Competition:

Friday, May 11, 12:30 p.m. — Tuesday, May 22, 9:30 p.m.

Prepayment Dates:

April 10, 11, 12, noon-1:15 p.m., and 5-7 p.m.  
Klein Hall, 1st Floor Table (outside of K1C)

Temple Law Review, Temple Journal of Science, Technology & Environmental Law, Temple International & Comparative Law Journal, and Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review thank you for your interest in the 2007 Write-On Competition. The four journals operate separately, but we combine our efforts in a joint Write-On Competition to select new staff members every year. Therefore, students are able to compete for staff positions on each of the journals by participating in a single competition.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The 2007 Write-On Competition FINAL RULES & INFORMATION PACKET will be included in ALL Write-On Competition packets, regardless of the source you use to access the packet.

The FINAL RULES & INFORMATION PACKET will govern the competition notwithstanding any other information provided through posters, this handout, other written materials, information meetings, or any other communications about the competition.

To the extent that the FINAL RULES & INFORMATION PACKET differs from any other materials, including this handout, the FINAL RULES & INFORMATION PACKET will control. You will be required to certify that you have read and understand the rules listed in that packet.

**I. JOURNAL MEMBERSHIP: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

**A. Background Information:** Law journals are the academic journals of the legal community. They are unique among scholarly journals because they are managed and staffed exclusively by students rather than by professional societies or independent publishers. In this fashion, although Temple Law Review, Temple Journal of Science, Technology & Environmental Law, Temple International & Comparative Law Journal, and Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review are sponsored in part by the law school,

they are independently run organizations managed and staffed entirely by Temple Law students.

- B. Staff Duties:** Though responsibilities vary depending upon which journal you join, staff members generally perform two types of tasks throughout the academic year: (1) writing a Note or Comment for possible publication, and (2) completing editorial duties such as checking citations and proofreading the work of other authors for accuracy, substance, and conformity with Bluebook requirements. Writing a Note or Comment requires considerable research and revision through several editing stages in the fall and spring.

**Serving on any of the law journals requires a significant commitment of time and energy.** The editorial duties require excellent citation skills, strong writing ability, and attention to detail. All staff duties require hard work, commitment, patience, and the ability to meet deadlines.

- C. Academic Credit:** Each staff member earns two credits per academic year, assuming all duties are satisfactorily performed. These credits may be applied toward the research paper writing requirement. Staff members must satisfactorily perform all duties to receive credit.

## **II. SELECTION PROCESS**

### **A. Criteria Considered in the Selection Process:**

1. **Temple Law Review:** extends approximately 40 invitations
  - i. Temple Law Review extends the majority of its invitations based on the competitor's Total Score. The Total Score is the combined total of the competitor's cumulative grade point average (CGPA), which is weighted 60%, and the competitor's Writing Score from his or her Write-On submission, which is weighted 40%.
  - ii. Temple Law Review reserves the right, at its discretion, to extend up to eight (8) invitations based solely on the competitor's Writing Score.
2. **Temple Journal of Science, Technology & Environmental Law:** extends approximately 22-30 invitations
  - i. Requires a minimum CGPA of 2.75
  - ii. Considers the competitor's writing ability based on the Write-On submission
3. **Temple International & Comparative Law Journal:** extends approximately 22-30 invitations
  - i. Requires good academic standing
  - ii. Considers the competitor's writing ability based on the Write-On submission
4. **Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review:** extends approximately 35-40 invitations
  - i. Requires good academic standing
  - ii. Considers the competitor's writing ability based on the Write-On submission
  - iii. Requires submission of a Personal Statement during the Write-On Competition

**B. Please note the following:**

1. Do not let your opinion or your expectations about your grade point average affect your decision to compete. As stated above, Temple Law Review reserves the right to extend up to eight (8) of the forty (40) invitations solely on the basis of writing. Furthermore, Temple International & Comparative Law Journal and Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review base their decisions solely on the competitor's writing ability, provided that the competitor is in good academic standing at the Law School.
2. Be advised that each law journal may change its grading criteria at its discretion.

**C. Notification of Selection:**

1. Selection notification typically begins in mid-July. Temple Law Review extends all membership offers first. If you accept an offer from Temple Law Review, then you will not be contacted by the other journals. The other three journals extend their membership offers after Temple Law Review completes its offer notification process.
2. Students who apply to the other journals must rank their choices from 1 to 3 (if applying to all three journals) when submitting the write-on materials. The three subject-specific journals will use this ranking, along with the journal's selection criteria, to determine which students will receive offers. Only one journal will extend an offer to an applicant. If a student does receive an offer from one of the three journals, that student will not receive an offer from the other two journals.

**D. Anonymity:**

All submissions are graded anonymously. You will use your number for the spring exams to identify your submission.

**III. THE WRITE-ON COMPETITION: May 11 – 22, 2007**

**A. Dates of the Competition:** The competition begins at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2007 and ends at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22, 2007. All times are Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

**B. Eligibility:** To be eligible to compete, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. Enrollment as a student at Temple Law
2. Successful completion of both semesters of Legal Research & Writing (Law 414)
3. No prior membership on a law journal

**Note on Study Abroad:** Although a staff member may study abroad during the academic year in which he or she is a staff member on a journal, the student will need to complete a great deal of work during that student's semester at the Philadelphia campus and must complete any required obligations during the semester abroad.

**The Competition – Writing a Note:** The piece of writing you produce in the Write-On Competition will be in a format known as a "Note." A Note examines an area of law using a recent court decision as its central case. A Note should summarize and review the prior case law, analyze the court's reasoning, and discuss the consequences of the court's holding. The author's independent evaluation is crucial. Is the court's rationale valid?

What alternative methods could the court have used to reach the same result? If the author determines the holding is wrong, why? Based on the particular facts, what alternative rationale supports a different holding?

The parts of a Note include an introduction (not used in this competition), pertinent facts and procedural history, prior law, the court's analysis, personal analysis, and a conclusion. During the Write-On Competition, the pertinent facts and procedural history will be provided for competitors. Competitors will thus write the following sections of the Note: prior law, the court's analysis, personal analysis, and a conclusion.

Please refer to page 8 for the approximate percentages that were attributed to each section of the Note in the 2006 Write-On Competition.

### **C. Permitted Materials:**

#### **1. Before the Competition:**

We highly recommend that competitors read a few Notes from previous issues of Temple Law Review before receiving this year's Write-On packet. Citations for previously published Notes include the following:

**68 Temp. L. Rev. 377**

**68 Temp. L. Rev. 409**

**74 Temp. L. Rev. 231**

Recent copies of each of the publications are maintained in the stacks of the law library. Remember that the Note you will write in the competition will be much shorter than most published Notes.

#### **2. During the Competition: The Write-On Competition is a CLOSED project.**

All materials used in the Write-On Competition, whether cited or not, must come from the competition packet. **You may not discuss the problem with anyone either inside or outside the law school community, including members of any of the law journals.** You may not consult briefs of counsel or slip opinions in the case. You may not use Lexis, Westlaw, or any other computerized legal research system, including cite-checking software. You may not use Shepardize or KeyCite to update any of the source list cases. You may not continue to refer to any previously published Notes once the competition begins.

**Exceptions to this rule include the following materials, which are the ONLY materials you may use in addition to the competition packet:**

- One of the following citation manuals (you will be asked to specify which manual you have used):
  - The Bluebook, 18th ed.

- The Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Citation Manual, 2d or 3d editions (please specify which edition you use)
- Nonlegal dictionary
- Copy of a prior year's submission for the Write-On Competition, located on Temple Law Review's website.

**Note: The use of any other materials is a violation of the Honor Code.** Any violation will be reported to Temple Law's administration, and the competitor will be disqualified from the competition.

**D. Obtaining Your Competition Packet:** The materials for the 2007 Write-On Competition will be available from the following locations:

- 1) Presold competition packets available on Klein 8th Floor Lounge (this method is highly recommended)
- 2) Blackboard
- 3) Directly from the copying vendor: Docu-care, 900 N. Broad St.
- 4) Temple Law School Copy Center on the 1st Floor of Klein
- 5) On Reserve at the Temple Law Library's Reference Desk

Competitors may choose to obtain the competition materials from any of these sources. Please see below for further discussion on the above methods.

**Note:** Due to the volume of competition materials (approximately 400 pages in past years), we strongly recommend that students prepay for the materials rather than rely on the Internet to obtain them.

**1. Presale for Competition Packets will occur on April 10, 11, and 12, 2007.**

To obtain a hard copy of the competition packet on May 11 or 12, you must pay **\$20.00 BY CHECK made payable to Temple University** on the presale days. After paying, you will receive a receipt. **You must keep your receipt to obtain your competition packet.**

The presale will occur on the first floor of Klein (outside of 1C) at the following times:

Tuesday, April 10, 2007	Noon to 1:30 p.m., 5-7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 11, 2007	Noon to 1:30 p.m., 5-7 p.m.
Thursday, April 12, 2007	Noon to 1:30 p.m., 5-7 p.m.

Packets purchased during the presale period will be distributed on May 11 and May 12. The law journals will only distribute the packets to those competitors who purchased one during the presale period. If you do not purchase a packet during the presale period, you will need to obtain your competition packet from one of the other sources.

**In making your decision to prepay, please consider the following:**

- If you wish to prepay on these days but cannot do so during the specified hours, please contact the Write-On Coordinator, Matt Epstein, at epsteinm@temple.edu, to arrange payment before Friday, April 13.
- If you cannot afford the presale fee, you may obtain a financial waiver by making a written request to Dean Esten (Room 103D, Barrack Hall, tel. (215) 204-8930) by April 11, 2007. Dean Esten will provide a receipt with which you may pick up your competition packet free of charge.
- If you do not prepay, you must obtain the competition packet on your own from Blackboard, Docu-care, the Law School Copy Center, or the Law Library's Reserve Desk.
  - The Write-On Competition packet will not be available from these sources prior to 12:30 p.m. on May 11, 2007.
  - Although every effort will be made to avoid delay, there is no guarantee that the packet will be available anywhere other than through prepay pickup at 12:30 p.m. on May 11, 2007.
  - There is no charge for obtaining the packet from Blackboard or the Law Library's Reserve Desk.

**2. Picking up your packet:**

**The Write-On Competition packet will not be distributed earlier than May 11, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. under any circumstances.**

Competition packets that have been preurchased may be obtained in the Klein 8th Floor Lounge at the following times:

Friday, May 11, 2007	12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 12, 2007	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** The distribution area in the Klein 8th Floor Lounge will be staffed only until all preurchased packets have been picked up.

**E. Submitting Your Entry: The deadline of 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 is firm.**

Entries will only be accepted on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the MOOT COURT ROOM in Klein Hall. To submit your entry, you may:

- Submit your entry in person at Klein Hall
- Submit your entry through someone other than yourself at Klein Hall
- Submit your entry through FedEx using the directions provided in the final rules packet.

**PLEASE NOTE: You assume all responsibility for timely delivery of your entry.**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Temple Law Review: [www.temple.edu/tlawrev/](http://www.temple.edu/tlawrev/)

Temple Journal of Science, Technology & Environmental Law: [www.temple.edu/tjstel/](http://www.temple.edu/tjstel/)

Temple International & Comparative Law Journal: [www.temple.edu/ticlj/](http://www.temple.edu/ticlj/)

Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review: [www.temple.edu/tpcrlr/](http://www.temple.edu/tpcrlr/)

## **TEMPLE LAW REVIEW—WRITE-ON COMPETITION GRADING CRITERIA**

**Please note:** These criteria are not part of the Write-On Competition rules. The criteria are provided to give you a **rough idea** of the format of a Note and the importance of each section. **Grading criteria are subject to change.**

### **I. Prior Law (20%)**

- A. Selection of relevant cases
- B. Discussion of cases
  - 1. Clear, correct presentation of case holdings
  - 2. Discussion of relevant facts and legal analysis
  - 3. Appropriate use of endnotes—support for proposition in text
- C. Organization
  - 1. Clear development
  - 2. Logical relationship between selected cases

### **II. Discussion of Court's Analysis (15%)**

- A. Concise discussion of court's reasoning
- B. Court's use of prior law
- C. Discussion of concurring / dissenting opinions
- D. Appropriate use of endnotes

### **III. Personal Analysis (30%)**

- A. Persuasiveness
- B. Logical relation to discussion of prior law and court's analysis
- C. Sufficient support by authority in text and endnotes
- D. Evaluation of court's holding in light of prior law
- E. Possible ramification of court's decision

### **IV. Conclusion (5%)**

- A. Concise wrap-up of holding
- B. Summary of author's argument

### **V. Mechanics of Endnotes—Bluebook or ALWD (20%)**

- A. Adherence to proper citation form
- B. Use of parentheticals
  - 1. Form
  - 2. Content
- C. Accurate support for stated propositions

### **VI. Mechanics and Style of Text (10%)**

- A. Proper format for textual references to authorities
- B. Grammar / spelling / use of tense
- C. Sentence and paragraph structure
- D. Word choice
- E. Overall clarity
- F. Conformity with format requirements