

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW  
9200:610 General Writing Requirement (GWR)  
Standard Requirements

The General Writing Requirement is a 0 credit hour course required for graduation. This course may be repeated and is graded credit/non-credit.

Synopsis:

In order to fulfill the General Writing Requirement, a student must complete a significant analytical writing. The writing may be one of three forms, (1) a seminar paper, (2) a law review note or article, or (3) a brief undertaken for an appropriate class (including a Moot Court competition under the supervision of a member of the faculty). The skills and capacities that the GWR is designed to foster are:

1. Thoroughness of research;
2. Accuracy in the citation of sources and compliance with formal requirements;
3. A high level of prose composition;
4. Understanding of the ideas and theories appearing in the research materials; and
5. Creative intellectual effort in the form of analysis, organization, and argument using the research materials.

Grade Requirement:

The paper must be of sufficient quality to earn at least a grade of "B." Although the student may also earn a letter grade for the course, the GWR grade will be "Credit" or "Non-Credit." Therefore, for example, the grade report would appear something like:

9200:610 General Writing Requirement (0) "CREDIT"  
9200:650 Employment Law (3) "A"

Page Length:

The paper must have a minimum length of fifteen (15) pages. If a student relies upon a brief to meet the GWR, the combined Statement of the Facts and Argument sections together must be at least fifteen (15) pages.

Requirements for Meeting the GWR:

1. The GWR must be satisfied in conjunction with a course other than Individual Studies and Research (ISR) unless the Associate Dean determines that no course on an appropriate subject is available to the student. If such a course is available but the instructor does not normally offer

GWR credit in conjunction with it, the student may satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR if the student has already taken or is taking the course. If such a course is not available, the student may satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR alone. For purposes of this rule, a course is not available if (1) it is not to be offered before the student is expected to graduate; (2) the student is unable to enroll in it because the enrollment limit has been reached and it is not to be offered again before the student is expected to graduate; or (3) for other reasons of an unusual and compelling nature, the student is unable to take the seminar or other course.

2. The Associate Dean shall be the instructor of record for ISR, and shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that responsibility for supervising GWR papers is distributed equitably among the members of the Law Faculty.

#### Special Rules for GWR through Moot Court and in Intellectual Property

1. Moot Court - Because of the way students collaborate on Moot Court briefs, for briefs for Moot Court to which several students contribute, a student seeking GWR credit must individually research and write at least 15 pages for Statement of Facts and Argument sections combined. The pages must represent individual student work. If a fellow student edits the work, the student seeking credit must turn in his or her original draft meeting the page requirement, and the final edited version, with a signed verification that the final version represents the student's own work plus some editing by another student. A brief incorporating significant rewriting by another student will not qualify for GWR credit, nor will a segment that does not meet the 15-page minimum. However, the student wishing GWR credit may either expand his or her written segment to meet the 15-page minimum or submit a redrafted brief that does represent substantially his or her own work. The faculty coach of the Moot Court Team will determine whether or not a student's work qualifies for GWR credit.
2. Intellectual Property - Any student who wishes to write a GWR on a topic relating to intellectual property under the supervision of someone who is not a full-time law faculty member must obtain the approval of the director of the law school intellectual property program as to topic. Any such GWR must be submitted to the director for purposes of determining whether the law school's GWR requirements have been satisfied.

#### Distinction Between GWR and Course Requirements

The requirements for the GWR and the requirements for the course in which the GWR paper is prepared are independent of each other. The GWR paper must be at least 15 pages, as described above, even if the course requires only shorter papers. Similarly, the course may require one or more papers longer than 15 pages. For example, Individual Studies and Research (ISR) requires a 30-page paper for two credits or a 45-page paper for three credits. Assuming they are of B quality or better, these longer papers would fulfill the GWR.

### Requirements Prior to Submitting the Final Paper:

The initiative in the choice of a topic is to be exercised by the student enrolled for credit. The topic, however, must be approved by the instructor of record.

1. The topic should be sufficiently well articulated and delimited as to permit, in the limited number of credits that may be earned, the study of a topic in depth, in preference to an allusive, discursive, or comprehensive treatment.
2. After approval, the student should prepare a short outline statement of the proposed project. The outline statement should provide an articulation of the student's thesis, problem or issue, a summation of the argument or authorities that the student will marshal in support of the thesis or solution to the problem or resolution of the issue, and an appropriate conclusion.
3. At least one draft of the paper must precede final submission. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, the first draft must be submitted one month before the due date for the final version.

### Form of submission:

The GWR paper may be printed on good quality, white bond, letter-sized (8-1/2" x 11") paper, or it may be submitted electronically, as directed by the supervising faculty member.

### Spacing:

1. The text must be double-spaced
2. Footnotes must be single-spaced and placed in numerical sequence at the end of the paper or at the bottom of the page.

### Margins:

A margin of one and one-half inches (1-1/2 inches) must be left at the left-hand side and at the top of each page. There must be a margin of at least one inch (1 inch) at the right-hand side and the bottom of each page. Only one side of the paper may be used.

### Pagination:

For papers other than briefs, the Title Page is not numbered. Each page thereafter is to be numbered in Arabic numerals continuously throughout the paper (including appendices, exhibits, or other materials that appear at the end). The only pages counted toward the 15 page minimum are text and footnotes.

### Title Page:

For papers other than briefs, the Title Page must conform to the sample attached.

### Citations:

Students must use a recognized form of legal citation (i.e., ALWD, Bluebook). The instructor may direct use of a particular citation form.

### Special Note on Quotations and Citations: Avoidance of Plagiarism:

The writer must scrupulously avoid plagiarizing the words and ideas of others. Therefore, in his or her research, the writer should carefully include all cited materials upon which he or she relies and should carefully distinguish his or her ideas and words from the ideas and words of others.

Plagiarism may appear in several forms. Copying, in whole or in part, the work or words of another (whether or not copyrighted) is a form of plagiarism, unless the writer both cites the source of the material and indicates direct quotations.

The use of exact words of another without the use of quotations marks or the equivalent, constitutes plagiarism even though the source of the words may be cited correctly.

Passing off as one's own the ideas of another is another form of plagiarism. When the ideas but not the exact words of another are used, full credit must be given by an appropriate citation. In other words, paraphrasing the work or works of another without proper citation to the source constitutes plagiarism.

Keep careful records of your research to ensure that you have all ideas attributed to the proper authority and all direct quotations or paraphrases accurately indicated and cited to source and page.

For more information go to:

<http://libguides.uakron.edu/plagiarism> and <http://law.uakron.libguides.com/plagiarism>

### Due Date:

1. The student must propose a topic to and receive its approval by the supervising faculty member no later than July 5th of his or her last year in law school if the student is expected to graduate in December or no later than October 15th of his or her last year in law school if the student is expected to graduate in May.
2. A student who intends to satisfy the GWR in conjunction with ISR alone, as provided above, must enroll in ISR no later than the semester before his or her last semester in law school unless the Associate Dean determines that the unavailability of a course on an appropriate subject

resulted from a change in circumstances that was not reasonably foreseeable by the student until it was too late for the student to comply with this requirement.

3. GWR papers must be submitted to the supervising faculty member for grading no later than November 15th if the student intends to graduate in December of the same year or March 31st if the student intends to graduate in May of the same year.
4. In unusual and compelling circumstances for which the student cannot reasonably be held responsible, the Associate Dean may waive the deadlines specified above.

Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, the GWR paper will be due the Monday of Reading Period in the term in which the course was taken. Since there is no Reading Period for Summer Session classes, the paper will be due on the Monday one week before the Summer class is over.

DUE DATE SUMMARY	Enrollment	Topic Approval	Due Date
Non-Seniors	At least 1 semester prior to planned graduation	At Instructor's request	Monday of Reading Period in same semester course was taken; Summer Session papers due Monday 1 week before end of Summer Session
December Graduates	Spring Semester prior to December graduation	July 5 <sup>th</sup> prior to December graduation	November 15 <sup>th</sup> prior to December graduation
May Graduates	Fall Semester prior to May graduation	October 15 <sup>th</sup> prior to May graduation	March 31 <sup>st</sup> prior to May graduation

------(SAMPLE TITLE PAGE)-----

The University of Akron School of Law

“The Impact of the Miranda Case  
on the Admissions of  
Confessions in Felony Cases  
in the State Courts”

Wendy A. Wills

Student ID#: 1234567

9200:610 General Writing Requirement

This GWR was taken with elective course:	<u>Seminar in Criminal Justice</u>
Instructor of Record:	<u>Professor Larry E. Litigator</u>
Semester of Enrollment:	<u>Fall 2017 Semester</u>
Submission Date:	<u>November 15, 2017</u>