Isn't This Class Just "Dicta?:" Top 5 Tips & Tricks, Answering Those Hard Questions and Justifying the "LR Cause"

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Isn’t this Class Just “Dicta?”

Top 5 Tips & Tricks, Answering Those Hard Questions and Justifying the “LR Cause”
Who are we to say…
Roadmap

What’s on your Top 5 List?

What to do...what to do...

Closing Remarks.
What’s on your Top 5 List?

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Alexis’ Top 5

1. Stand firm.
2. Bigger ≠ better.
3. Just grade already!
4. Practice makes perfect.
5. Let it go…Let it go…

Take advantage of your network and connections for advice and assistance!
Caroline’s Top 5

1. Framing is essential.
2. Time management (both you and them).
3. PowerPoint is NOT your friend.
5. It’s all about lesson planning and practice.

Do not engage via email – STOP – do not engage!!
1. Provide feedback
2. Observe others
3. Deadlines for questions
4. Research conferences
5. Create a rubric

Remember, even if you’re a new instructor, you know more than they do!
Franklin’s Top 5

1. Podcasts
2. Grading Policies
3. Mental Health + Positive Reinforcement
4. Metaphors
5. Connections within the law school.

Connections…Connections…Connections…Connections…
What to do...What to do...

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“[...] it is expected that the project will take us 24 hours. I sincerely cannot dedicate that amount of time. This week is a particularly difficult week for me and many likely be able to work on the project this week. I am planning on catching up on outlines, submitting job applications, visiting family, and hopefully resting during next week is spring break, during which I and many others are planning on catching up on outlines, submitting job applications, visiting family, and hopefully resting. After spring break ends, we have 17 days until the project is due, which means we will need to work almost 1.5 hours on the project each day. This works out to 10.5 hours of work on the project each week. This amount of time is unreasonable. I understand that law school is difficult and extremely time consuming. [...] I hope that these concerns resonate with you and [...] that some adjustment to the project can be made.
Q2: I don’t need this class...I have Google!
Q3: Why is legal citation so torturous? Why does the Bluebook suck? I’m not interested in law review so I don’t need this! Won’t my paralegal or someone do my citations?
Q4: Are you going to post your PowerPoint, Lecture Notes, etc.?
Q5: Will you review my answers and advise me as to what I need to fix before I turn in my assignment for a final grade? OR I feel like you should adjust my grade because...
Q6: Won’t my paralegal just do the research for me?
Q7: Research Logs –
These are a waste of time!
Why do I need to explain to you “why” it is that I took the steps I did? Isn’t this redundant?
Q8: Online research is more intuitive, faster and cheaper than print. Why do you make us learn how to do things in print AND on all 3 legal research platforms? Who uses Bloomberg anyway?
Student: [I] still seem to be a bit confused regarding your suggestion of the correct statute [...explanation of why they choose what they did...]

LR Prof: Call of question was X, premise of exercise was Y...feel free to stop by my office to discuss...

S: I acknowledge that the assignment called for X, but...[long explanation of why they are still right]

LRP: I understand your points & have given them thorough consideration. However, I stand by my decision as final [but you are welcome to stop by...]

S: (still emailing) I am still having trouble grasping why [X] instead of [Y] is the appropriate statute as you claim [...]

Q9: Actual Email Exchange:
Q10: So...other than teaching us, what is it that you do all day?
Final Thoughts
Technology in the Classroom

- Minimizing distractions.
- Special “laptop days.”
- Do’s & Don’ts.
- Group work = 1 Laptop per group?
Grading & Curving

Transparency.

What goes up must come down.

Preparing yourself for the response.

What happened to my “A?”

Average Scores & Final Scores vs. Grade Scores