

# NJC Courses

## Judicial Writing (JS 615)

### Why should I take this course?

Party litigants, attorneys, and reviewing bodies need clear, precise, and unambiguous judicial documents. This course offers a concentrated study of the basic rules of English composition as they apply to legal writing. The goal is to achieve a style that is simple and understandable to those who read judicial documents.

### What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Diagnose and revise difficult and unclear writing;
- Identify the audience and styles of judicial writing;
- Acquire techniques for writing clearly, precisely and unambiguously;
- Define the relationship between writing and decision-making;
- Write more creative decisions; and
- Use more neutral language in your writing.

### Who should attend?

Any judge who writes briefs, opinions, findings of fact, and conclusions of law, jury instructions or correspondence can benefit from this course. Court-connected personnel such as staff attorneys, who write opinions for the court, are also encouraged to attend.

### Who are the members of the faculty?

The faculty is composed of experienced and knowledgeable judges, professors, and experts who have considerable experience in teaching judges.

### How is this course taught?

The course combines lecture presentations and writing exercises. The lectures engage participants in exercises of rewording sentences and paragraphs, and critiquing opinions and other legal documents. The writing exercises culminate with one-on-one consultations between each participant and a faculty member.

### Does this course qualify for credits in the Judicial Studies degree program?

This is a required course in the Judicial Studies degree program. In addition, this course qualifies for the Certificate of Judicial Development, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, Special Court Trial Skills, Administrative Law Adjudication Skills, Dispute Resolution Skills, and Tribal Judicial Skills programs.

### What should I tell my presiding judge or funding agency so that my attendance will be approved?

By improving your writing ability, you will enhance both your productivity and efficiency. You will also be able to share many of the concepts and techniques with your colleagues.

### Whom should I contact for more information?

For more information, please contact the registrar's office at (800) 255-8343 or [registrar@judges.org](mailto:registrar@judges.org).



Judicial College Building/MS 358 • Reno, NV 89557 • (800) 25-JUDGE • [www.judges.org](http://www.judges.org)