

NJC Courses

Logic and Opinion Writing (JS 621)

Why should I take this course?

After this course, judges will be able to: define basic terms and concepts in the formal study of logic; describe the premises of inductive reasoning; explain the anatomy of an opinion with the use of orientation paragraphs; issue statements, findings of fact and conclusions of law or disposition; and state the emphasis to be given to style, such as focus, sentence structure and revision. Court-connected personnel, such as staff attorneys, who write opinions for the court, are also encouraged to attend. Pre-course materials will be available via email for you to complete approximately six weeks prior to the course start date. Please plan to set aside approximately two to four hours of time to review and complete the materials prior to the course.

What will I learn?

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Define basic terms and concepts in the formal study of logic;
- Describe the premises of inductive and deductive reasoning, especially categorical syllogisms;
- Summarize relevant case law, oral arguments and trial presentation; and
- Explain your conclusions and decision more cogently and precisely.
- Explain the anatomy of an opinion with the use of orientation paragraphs, issue statements, findings of fact and conclusions of law or disposition;
- Describe what is involved in the writing process (preparation, topic selection, drafts and quality control);
- State the emphasis to be given to style such as focus, sentence structure, wordiness, and revision; and
- Utilize writing practices that improve the opinion (self-editing, composition).

Who should attend?

This course is designed for any judge who must appraise the soundness of arguments presented to them and want to improve their legal writing skills. The class is limited to 28 participants to facilitate class discussion.

Who are the members of the faculty?

The faculty consists of experienced attorneys and educators.

How is this course taught?

The class is conducted through presentations, extensive class discussion and writing exercises. Each participant is asked to submit two opinions for review and analysis.

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

This course does qualify for 2 credits toward the Judicial Studies degree program and as a requirement for the Certificate in Judicial Development, Administrative Law Adjudication Skills and Tribal Judicial Skills programs and as an elective in the Dispute Resolution Skills, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, and Special Court Trial Skills programs.



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

NJC Courses

Logic and Opinion Writing (JS 621)

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

A judge must evaluate legal argumentation in its many forms because it lies at the heart of the judging craft. The validity of arguments in briefs, memoranda, and oral presentations often depend upon the logical components. Even a rudimentary understanding of logic will enable me to perform more capably and effectively and save time in legal analysis. As a judge I must frequently write opinions. This course will assist me in analyzing and solving troublesome difficulties that I may encounter in preparing and writing an opinion. Further, I generally want to improve my writing style. My participation will contribute to the overall productivity of the court.

Whom should I contact for more information?

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

Academic Dishonesty and Unprofessional Conduct

As professionals, we are held to high ethical standards. We expect you be responsible for your actions. We will not tolerate academic dishonesty, as defined in the Student Handbook and General Catalog. Your performance reflects not only on you, but also upon all other graduate students, faculty, and the University of Nevada. Accordingly, we will refer any suspected cases of cheating or plagiarism to Student Judicial Affairs. Any substantiated incident of cheating or other academic misconduct will result in your failing the assignment, the course, or both.

Statement of Disabled Access and Reasonable Accommodation

The Excellence in Teaching Program is committed to equal opportunity in education. This includes students with documented physical and learning disabilities. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the beginning of the course and provide documentation of your disability. We will make reasonable accommodation to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The staff of the Disability Resource Center must be present at any and all negotiations. The ETP staff will cooperate with all requirements mandated by the Disability Resource Center.



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