

Legal Writing

Law

Writing that a busy reader can act on.

Practice.

Do

Answer the question in the first paragraph

One issue per section, clearly headed

Cite authority for every proposition

Set out the counter-argument fairly

Say what should happen next

Avoid

Latin where plain English will serve

Long sentences with nested clauses

Hedging that obscures the conclusion

Reciting facts the reader supplied

Authority cited without a pinpoint

Educational reference. Advice that never reaches a conclusion has not answered the question it was asked.