I am looking forward to meeting you all! Prior to our first class on August 22, please complete the following assignments.

1. Read the following articles (posted with this memo):
   
   Do the Opposite for Better Legal Writing by Mark Cooney.
   
   Get Real About Research and Writing by Mark Cooney.
   
   
   Writing It Right: Long Ideas, Short Words by Douglas E. Abrams.
   
   Read the following blog post, found at:
   
   Why Does Comey get an “A” in Legal Writing for His Written Testimony? by Kirsten Davis.

2. Purchase and activate a one-year subscription to Core Grammar for Lawyers (“CGL”).
   
   b. Complete the form. Select "New York" for the state and "SUNY Buffalo Law School" in the school field.
   d. Enter your credit card information below, verify the purchase, and continue on to create your CGL account.
   e. Enter “317-162-204” in to the Class Code field.
   f. You will be able to start using CGL immediately.
3. Complete the CGL Pre-Test. Do not opt out of the Pre-Test. The Pre-Test has 96 questions and typically takes about one hour to complete. Open the Pre-Test by clicking on the home page (called your “Bookshelf”). Do not consult outside resources when you take the Pre-Test.

*Regardless of how you score on the Pre-Test, try not to be too discouraged or too confident. The primary benefit of using CGL is that, by engaging in the interactive lessons that are individually selected for you after the Pre-Test, you can advance your knowledge from whatever your starting point is. One study of the program showed that law students who engaged in the lessons experienced, on average, over 20% improvement from their Pre-Test score to their highest Post-Test score.

4. Write your autobiography. Your autobiography should be typed and no longer than one page, double-spaced, Century Schoolbook 12-point font. Please bring three copies of your autobiography to class with you on August 22.

The required books for the class are:


- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (20th ed. 2015)

I encourage you to buy these books online to minimize costs, though they are also in the University bookstore – just make sure the ISBN numbers match.

Feel free to contact me before class with any questions at lreilly@buffalo.edu.

Lastly, there is a great blog about the transition to law school. It may be interesting for you to read if you have time (not just before school begins, but throughout the year): http://lawschoolacademicsuccess.com/category/pre-law/.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I will see you on August 22!