To: Incoming Law Students in LAWR Sections B3 and B4  
From: Professor Laura Reilly  
Date: July 2015  
Re: Introduction to Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research ("LAWR")

I am looking forward to meeting you all! Prior to our first class on August 25, please complete the following four assignments.

1. Read the following articles (also posted on this site):

   Do the Opposite for Better Legal Writing by Mark Cooney.

   Get Real About Research and Writing by Mark Cooney.


2. Purchase and activate a one-year subscription to Core Grammar for Lawyers ("CGL").
   b. Complete the form and be sure to select "New York" for the state and put "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. Students in Section B3 should type in “315-162-9531” in to the Class Code field.
   f. Students in Section B4 should type in “315-162-3989” in to the Class Code field.
   g. 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 45-75 minutes 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. Please bring two copies of your autobiography to class with you on August 25.

The required books for the class are:

**Research Textbook**

**Writing and Analysis Textbook**

**Citation Manual**
The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (Columbia Law Review Ass’n et al. 20th ed. 2015)

Feel free to buy these books online – just make sure the ISBN numbers match.

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

Two other items: (1) I am planning a class hike for August 30, so if you are in town, I would love to have you join in! (2) 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 25!