

Analogies Designed to Make Learning Legal Research Easier



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Roadmap



- Pedagogy
- Understanding Databases
- The Research Process
- Understanding Primary Authority
- Think, Pair, Share

Theory Behind the Practice

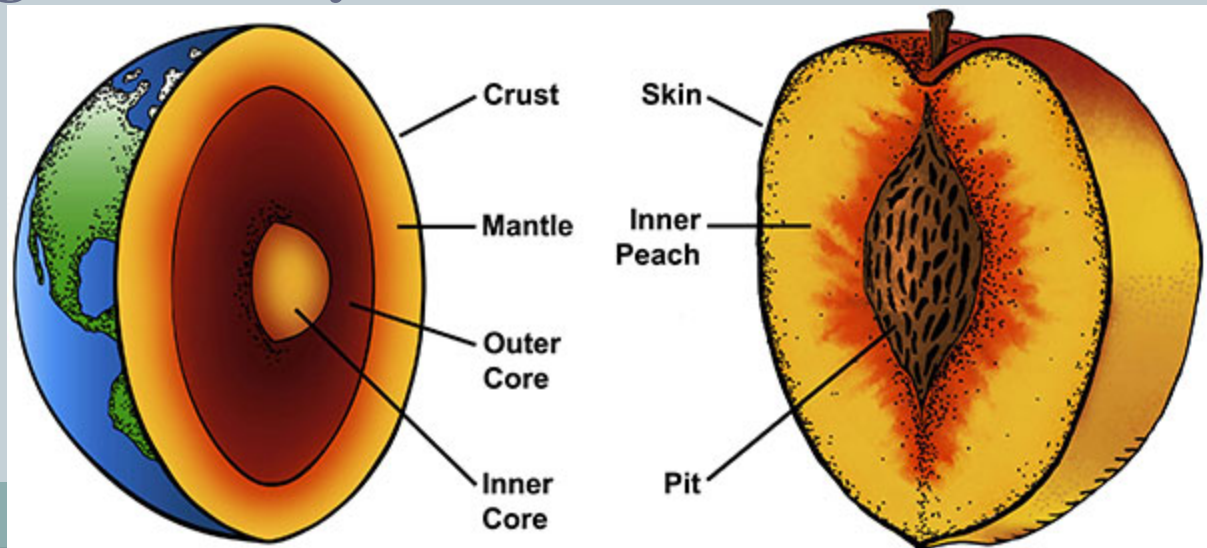


- **Pedagogy:** interactions between teachers & learners + instructional approaches.
 - *Learner-centered:* learners play active role in process, use prior knowledge + new experiences to create new knowledge.
- **Schema:** how we categorize information.
 - Provides context for learning. Experience builds schema.



Using Analogies in Legal Learning

- Analogies: provide schema for learning.
 - Base (what you know about) + target (new thing)
- Analogies in law school:
 - promotes understanding of new & complex concepts.
 - Analogical reasoning is the basis of legal analysis, the heart of “thinking like a lawyer.”



Understanding Databases



- Getting started with legal research.
- The database as a house.
- It's like shopping online.

The Research Process



- Using travel research to prepare students for legal research
- How an assignment can work
- Before class:
 - Give students scenario to complete in advance of class
 - Limit their time
 - Ask for an email response and an explanation of search strategy

Example Assignment



Hello Associate,

In a couple of weeks, I am heading to Phoenix, Arizona, to take a deposition. I plan to take an extra couple of days, as I would like to spend some time with my daughter Josie. She is 12 and growing up fast! Could you take a look and see what we can do together in Phoenix? I would like 3-4 really good ideas, as I have never been to that area.

I know you're working on the Hall case, so don't spend more than a half hour researching.

Sincerely,
John Roberts, Esq.

Example Assignment



Draft a professional response to John Roberts.

Describe your research: 1) search engine(s) used; 2) search term(s) used; 3) websites you examined; 4) which sites you found most helpful and why; 5) any observations about your search techniques and results.

In Class Discussion



- Professionalism
- Email etiquette and presenting research results
- Class responses in word clouds
- Discuss similarities and differences in approaches
- Focus on strategy

Example Student Description



I then visited the website for each of the activities. I collected basic information about the attractions including ticket price and hours from their sites to ensure accuracy. Then I used google maps to track the distance from the city to make sure I was not looking at an attraction that would not be accessible.

Analogies to the Legal Research Process



- Attention to facts and audience
- Travel websites mimic secondary sources (a.k.a. rely on the expert)
- Benefit to checking attraction websites for updated information
- Need to develop vocabulary in order to search effectively
- Level of familiarity with search tools (a.k.a. Google)

Understanding Primary Authority



- Statutes and Regulations as Skeletons and Muscles

Creating Analogies



- Now we'd like you to contribute to our catalog of analogies.

Questions

