Analogies Designed to Make Learning Legal Research Easier
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
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.
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
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
Now we’d like you to contribute to our catalog of analogies.
Questions