

The Issue-Under-Here-Therefore Method

Dear NWCU Student/Graduate,

The **Issue-Under-Here-Therefore** writing method is a fine variation of the I-R-A-C (Issue-Rule-Application-Conclusion) method, and is used by many of those writing good passing answers to essay questions on the bar exam. Those writing in the **Issue-Under-Here-Therefore** way must, however, be careful to be sure that their use of the words “*under*”, “*here*” and “*therefore*” are not so recurring in their answers that they bother the grader. Graders may be troubled somewhat by an approach that seems mechanical in the extreme. For that reason, I propose that you continue to use the words “*under*”, “*here*” and “*therefore*” as beginning words for your paragraphs, but that you do so along with some variations or substitutions. In this regard please consider the following suggestions:

Issue

Provide one word, two words or a few words as a heading (which may or may not be written in the form of a question) to throw up the issue.

Under

Paragraphs providing a rule of law (i.e., typically in the form of a definition to a key legal term and phrase) can start out with the word “under” or with a few words used as a substitution for the word “under”, like in the examples below:

“Under ...”

“According to”

“Pursuant to ...”

“The legal concept of ... ”

“The elements of ...”

“The laws related to ...”

Here

The word “here” or substitutions for the word “here” can be used to begin your arguments/analyses in your answers, like in the examples below:

“Here ...”

“At this point the fact that ...”

“The fact that ...”

“The facts state ...”

“_____ will argue here that...”

“On the one hand the fact that ...”

“In the given situation it here ...”

Therefore

The word “therefore” or substitutions for the word “therefore” can be used to begin your conclusions in your answers, like in the examples below:

“Therefore ...”

“Consequently ...”

“Thus ...”

“For that reason ...”

“Hence ...”

“As a result ...”

“So ...”

Of course, there are many other variations of wording that will also work.

Incidentally, never use the individual words Issue-Rule-Application or Issue-Under-Here as actual headings for sections or paragraphs of your answers. Your headings should instead be legal terms or phrases (e.g. Battery) or complete questions (e.g. Did ‘A’ commit a Battery against ‘B’?) that posit the individual issue, rule or doctrine that you are about to handle in the context of a factual scenario that was presented to you in an examination question. However, it is all right to use the word “Conclusion” or the word “Therefore” as a heading at the end of a discussion.

Best wishes,

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