

Things to Avoid While Studying for Law School Exams

By: Edward Elkins, Esq.

<http://www.edwardelkins.com>

I hope you are studying for your law school exams already and avoiding the mistakes below. If not, you may be padding the curve. Especially during your first year of law school the learning curve will take a toll on the grading curve. Studying the law is a beast of its own in terms of the application of the knowledge you have acquired. Here are a few mistakes you must avoid during your law school exam studying:

Studying the "small stuff"

When you study, be sure to focus on the large details rather than the small stuff. The professor is not likely to care about the names of parties in cases that aren't considered paramount to the subject. Nor will the professor care about the proper spelling of cases names. Focus first on the major concepts and then progress to the small details.

Waiting until exams to outline

If you are waiting until exams to outline the course material you have given the upper hand to the other students in your class. You don't think they are studying either? Don't cross your fingers hoping that your point will be proven when grades are released. You are graded in comparison to the performance of your classmates. They may say they aren't studying this or that but they may be saying that hoping you won't so they can get the upper hand. Yes, these kind of sneaky tactics are used in law school but you know better.

Not practicing essay writing

You must practice writing coherent and thorough law school essays utilizing the IRAC (Issue Rule Application Conclusion) method. Get used to IRAC and IRACDR (IRAC + Defenses Remedies) now because these formats will show up again during bar exam preparation.

Burning out

Do not stay up all night for every exam to try to cram as much legal knowledge into your mind. The mental and physical fatigue that results will hinder your thought process during the exam and any further studying you do for any exam following quickly afterward.

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Florida Entertainment Attorney Edward Elkins practices law in Orlando, Florida. He has been interviewed by small business websites such as startupgrowthexpert.com, [Smallerbox.net](http://smallerbox.net), and [MSN](http://msn.com) regarding starting successful businesses within the entertainment industry. His entertainment law blog can be viewed by visiting <http://www.edwardelkins.com/blawg>.