

Health Law Seminar

Select Your Thesis

Professor TM Pope 

From topic to thesis



You identified a
topic, an issue in
health law



But . . . what
are **you** going
to say about it?



Legal literature
typically has a
normative
thesis



The court
“should” decide
this way.



The legislature
“ought” to
amend the law



There are **other**
valid types of
theses



Compare how
jurisdictions X
and Y handle
the issue



Definitional –
what does this
word in the
regulation mean



**Thesis
selection
criteria**



Original



Current events, trends, and controversies, as well as new laws, regulations, and decisions that leave unanswered questions or create debates, conflicts, or possible unintended consequences.



e.g. new
technology →
need new law



Maybe same position as already defended, but you have **different** arguments or **different** evidence



Interesting



Suggest change in law
Predict change in law
Criticize key article
Criticize judicial op.
Synthesize law not drawn together



1st deadline
January 27



In 400 to 500 words, describe the issue that you plan to address and what you want to say about it. Your topic and claim may evolve over the course of the semester. But state what it is now.



This submission comprises 5% of your course grade.



You are only **submitting** 500 words, but aim to **write** >1000



**Start
writing
NOW**



Do **not**
sequence
research and
writing



Thesis statement
is a proposition
you will defend



Do early draft
of **how** you will
support and
defend it



Introduction
Problem
Law handles now
Problem with law
Proposal
Conclusion



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