

## **Traditional Structure of a Law School Paper**

### **Introduction**

1. Introduce and note why the topic is important.
2. Briefly summarize necessary background information.
3. State your thesis.
4. Convey your organization of the paper.

### **Background**

1. Describe the genesis of the subject.
2. Describe the changes that have occurred during its development.
3. Explain the reasons for the changes.
4. Describe where things are now. (You may also want to indicate the reasons for further change.)

### **Statement of the Case (for a casenote or case-comment)**

1. Include the relevant facts.
2. Include the procedural history.
3. Include the court's holding and reasoning at each level, as well as the reasoning of dissenting or concurring opinions.

### **Analysis**

#### **Large-Scale Organization**

1. Discuss the major issues.
2. Separate issues and sub-issues.
3. Order issues logically.

#### **Small-Scale Organization**

1. Introduce and conclude on each issue.
2. Present your arguments and rebut opposing arguments.
3. Use organizational paradigms where appropriate.

### **Conclusion**

1. Restate thesis.
2. Summarize major points.