"AI" in Legal Writing

Introductory Concepts

- Tech tools support students' development; they can't replace instruction. Introduce them as one tool in the writing process and not a "quick fix." Many Gen Z students are familiar with electronic editing support, from basic spellcheck to tools such as Grammarly.

- Automated writing tools are growing in sophistication. Encourage students to use them cautiously toward more polished work to form good tech habits moving into practice.

- Popular tools such as WordRake and BriefCatch will discuss school pricing to avoid individual burden on students.

- Review academic integrity or course policies to give clear guidance on whether course allows use of electronic editing software. Be clear about scope and consider supplying the reasons.

- Approach writing tools with a "risk/reward" mindset. Copying from an online legal research source can be risky but also efficient and accurate when done with caution.

In the Classroom

- Encourage students to use existing tools well: *e.g.*, MS Word Grammar & Style settings to be purposeful about what the tool is marking (or not) or add case-specific terms to the platform's custom dictionary.

- Assign flipped guidance on efficient and effective document creation using tools such as styles or templates, especially for longer, multi-part work such as a trial or appellate brief or a contract. A sample from Suffolk Law's Legal Practice Skills program is available [here](#).

- Begin class with a professionalism example of a document error that editing tools might have helped with, such as [this](#) involving 2020 presidential election litigation.

Assessment Options

- After students use a new editing or writing tool (free trials often available), assign self-assessment and reflection questions and go over the pros/cons during class.

- Include a small category for "formatting and proper use of electronic writing tools" on self-editing checklists or grading rubrics (e.g., uniform styles, no track changes indicators, etc.)

Additional Resources

- Dyane's "Smart Lawyering" article [here](#) offers a deeper dive into legal document proficiency and more classroom ideas.
- Check out [this](#) short article about AI for Legal Writing by Professor Kathleen Dillon Narko at Northwestern.