

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

NOTE TOPIC:

How to select and research for a note topic for a student publication

By Margaret A. Leary//February 13, 2009

Here are selected websites that can be helpful in discovering and choosing a note topic. Note that some are written for other law schools so the location of recommended print material won't match Michigan's locations.

Consider making an appointment with a Reference Librarian to discuss your research on this and any other topic. Email to askalawlibrarian@umich.edu.

1. **Highly recommended:** The "Columbia Law Review Publishable Notes Manual 2008-2009" is a comprehensive guide. Student publications at Michigan may have similar manuals, but this one is right out there on the web at

http://www.columbialawreview.org/assets/pdfs/Publishable_Notes_Manual_2008-2009.pdf

2. University of San Francisco School of Law's "Finding a Topic for Your Comment, Note or Law School Paper" This contains citations to useful books as well as other tips.

http://www.usfca.edu/law_library/findtopic.html#Advice

3. LexisNexis "Note topic selection on LexisNexis"

http://www.lexisnexis.com/documents/LawSchoolTutorials/20080711120255_small.pdf

4. Westlaw's "Writing a law review article", at

<http://lscontent.westlaw.com/images/banner/SurvivalGuide/PDF08/08WritingLRArticle.pdf>

And Westlaw's longer "Guide to law review research" at

<http://west.thomson.com/productdetail/1-5783-5/RM157835/productdetail.aspx>

5. From our Law Library,.

--In general: <http://www.law.umich.edu/library/students/research/Documents/note.pdf>

--Especially for *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*

<http://www.law.umich.edu/library/students/research/Documents/racepnt.pdf>

--Focussing on international law:

<http://www.law.umich.edu/library/students/research/Documents/intlnote.pdf>

6. From Western New England School of Law, how to select and evaluate a note topic: "Guide to writing a student law review note."

<http://www.wneclaw.com/lawreview/lawrevdefault.html>

7. The Yale Law Library has an extensive tutorial on "pre-emption checking", which means making sure someone else hasn't just written about the topic you're considering.

<http://www.law.yale.edu/library/preemption.asp>