

BAR WRITING

Bar Essay and MPT Diagnostic

A structured self-review tool for issue spotting, rule statements, analysis, organization, completion, and time management.

Use this diagnostic immediately after timed practice. Score the process, not only the result. The purpose is to identify a repeatable improvement target for the next attempt.

Practice rule: Review one answer deeply enough to change the next answer. Collecting scores without changing a specific behavior is not a study system.

1. TIMED ESSAY DIAGNOSTIC

Dimension	1 - weak	3 - developing	5 - strong	My score
Issue spotting	Missed major issues	Found most major issues	Found major and important sub-issues	
Rules	Incomplete or inaccurate	Generally accurate but uneven	Accurate, concise, and usable	
Analysis	Conclusions or facts listed	Some application to facts	Rule-to-fact reasoning is clear and balanced	
Organization	Hard to follow	Mostly logical	Headings and paragraph structure guide the reader	
Time / completion	Major section unfinished	Finished with rushed analysis	Completed within time with controlled allocation	

The single highest-value change for my next essay

2. Essay review worksheet

Question and date

Review question

My notes

Which major issue did I miss or misprioritize?

Which rule statement was inaccurate, incomplete, or too long?

Where did I state a conclusion without explaining why?

Which facts should have been used more directly?

Where did organization help or hurt the reader?

What did I spend too much time on?

What will I do differently in the first five minutes next time?

Next-practice commitment

On my next essay, I will

3. MPT process diagnostic

Stage	Target behavior	What happened in this attempt?	Next adjustment
Task memo	Identify product, audience, purpose, tone, and constraints		
Library	Extract controlling rules and usable explanations		
File	Match facts to elements, disputes, and policy considerations		
Outline	Build a product-specific structure before drafting		
Draft	Use headings, rule-to-fact analysis, and professional tone		
Finish	Reserve time to complete and review the requested product		

MPT completion check

- ☐ I answered the exact task rather than writing a generic memo.
- ☐ My structure reflected the requested work product.
- ☐ I used the library accurately and did not invent outside law.
- ☐ I connected record facts to legal standards rather than summarizing both separately.
- ☐ I finished every required section within the allotted time.

4. Practice log

Date	Task	Timed?	Score / result	Primary weakness	Next drill

Weekly pattern review

The recurring pattern across my recent work is

The drill I will repeat next week is

Important: This resource is general educational material. It is not legal advice, does not create an attorney-client relationship, and does not guarantee admission, grades, employment, examination results, licensure, or any other outcome.

Learn more or request coaching at lawcoachllc.com.