

Mooting has confirmed for me that proper advocacy starts with proper research and that quality legal research starts with knowing how to research, rather than simply what to research

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One of the most difficult shifts to make in law school was to move from research for class to researching for advocacy. Mooting demands more than the search for a “correct”, or “usable” case – they require an understanding of doctrinal and policy implications within law, and how the other side may approach their argument and submissions.

This understanding helped me kickstart a newer approach to research. In preparing for moots, I have found LexisNexis to be most helpful as a launchpad to establish a solid research base. It can be overwhelming reading each and every case cited in a decision to better orient



your submissions; as such, I refer to secondary sources such as Halsbury's and case summaries that help me better understand judicial history.

This gives me a comprehensive view of how the matter has been handled by the courts historically, before honing in on what will ultimately be the decisive authorities. This small adjustment saves time and makes my research more targeted to my specific questions.

I have also used Lexis+ AI this way. Rather than replacing the need to research fundamentals, it has helped me supplement my understanding of them after grasping the basics. I turn to the tool to identify key cases related to a specific doctrinal question or to ensure that there isn't another angle I've missed on a particular issue.

A great benefit is that links to primary sources, so I'm always able to verify the information myself, before beginning my submission independently. The combination has been a great step in my legal research journey.

Mooting has confirmed for me that proper advocacy starts with proper research – and that quality legal research starts with knowing how to research, rather than simply what to research.

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