

# Script

## Study Script/Dummy Sheet

### Before the subject arrives:

1. Turn on laptop and login
2. Confirm Wireless Internet signal to HU Preferred network
3. Start up Panopto and login
4. Connect microphone and webcam and confirm that they are working (print subjects will require the wireless microphone)
5. Confirm that Panopto will upload to “Kriger’s Project” folder
6. Confirm that the document reader is clearly recording material

### After the subject arrives:

1. Connect microphone to subject (if a print research subject, otherwise see step 2)
2. Confirm that Panopto is picking up audio and video recording
3. START RECORDING!

Thank you for your participation today. This is a short anonymous research study on the development of legal reasoning skills by law students.

This is not a test of your abilities, but rather an attempt to determine how people think about legal problems. You will not be graded, and your answers will not be revealed to your professors. Your responses will be recorded to ensure accuracy. These recordings will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team.

First you will be given a sample problem to work through. This is only a warm-up and is not part of the study. This is just so that you feel comfortable with the process of voicing your thoughts aloud. When answering the question please verbalize your thoughts as naturally as possible. Please do *not* explain or rationalize your thoughts but rather communicate them in a free flowing manner. The easiest way to do this is to go through your normal thought process but say everything aloud as if no one else were in the room.

4. PRESENT SUBJECT WITH LSAT PROBLEM.

Please take your time reading through this sample problem. You do not need to read the problem out loud, but please voice any thoughts you have while mentally working through the problem as naturally as possible. The key here is to “think aloud” as freely as possible. Please verbalize when you have decided on an answer. The answer itself is less important than your thought process leading up to the answer.

5. After the subject has completed the sample LSAT Problem read the following:

Thank you for completing this sample problem. In a moment I will provide you with a legal research assignment. Take as long as you feel is necessary to answer the problem. Just tell me when you are finished, and I will ask you to orally provide your answer. If you have not finished after 80 minutes, I’ll ask you to orally give your tentative conclusions. Feel free to take notes on the laptop or organize your research in any way that you feel comfortable. Again, it is important that you verbalize your thought process throughout your research. If at any point it seems that you are not thinking aloud, I will prompt you to please express what you are thinking verbally. Please work at your own pace and answer the problem to the best of your abilities. Please be aware that this problem takes place in New York State.

**For Online Research Subjects:**

At this time please log in to either Lexis Nexis, or Westlaw, or both (whichever you prefer). Do you have any questions?

**For Print Research Subjects:**

You will have access to all of the necessary books (point to all the stacks of books in the reading room). Please continue to verbalize your thought process as you move about the book shelves. You can bring as much of the material back to this table as you see fit. Then please place any materials under the document reader (one page at a time) to review it. Do you have any questions?

6. HAND THE SUBJECT THE PROBLEM and tell them that they can begin now.

**\*\*REMEMBER: Use Think Aloud Protocol. Ask probing questions, i.e.,**

1. “Say whatever comes into your head”
2. “What else?”

7. If a subject is finished before 80 minutes, ask him/her to give their answer. Keep asking, “Anything else?” until the subject says, “No.”

8. AFTER 75 MINUTES, PROVIDE A 5 MINUTE WARNING. Then, at 80 minutes ask the subject to give his/her tentative conclusions. Keep asking, "Anything else?" until the subject says, "No."

End with: "Thank you for your time today. We ask that you not discuss the study, the legal problems presented to you or any of your answers with anyone else. This is to ensure that other potential participants are not tainted and that we are able to gather quality data."

**STOP RECORDING**

Premiums for automobile accident insurance are often higher for red cars than for cars of other colors. To justify these higher charges, insurance companies claim that, overall, a greater percentage of red cars are involved in accidents than are cars of any other colors. If this claim is true, then lives could undoubtedly be saved by banning red cars from roads altogether.

The reasoning in the argument is flawed because the argument

- A) Accepts without question that insurance companies have the right to charge higher premiums for higher risk clients.
- B) Fails to consider whether red cars cost the same to repair as cars of other colors.
- C) Ignores the possibility that drivers who drive recklessly have a preference for red cars.
- D) Does not specify precisely what percentage of red cars are involved in accidents.
- E) Makes an unsupported assumption that every automobile accident results in some loss of life.