

We provide tips for each kind of MPT task, as seen in this sample.

important than having a perfect document! So, it is better to have a rather redundant conclusion than to not have a conclusion at all.

MPT Task-Specific Tips

In this section, we will discuss tips that are specific for each of the most highly tested MPT tasks: the objective memorandum, the persuasive brief, the demand letter, the opinion letter, and the wildcard task.

Objective Memorandum Tips

The objective memorandum is the most frequently tested MPT task. It is also generally the most straightforward MPT task to write. However, there some important things to keep in mind when writing an objective memorandum on the MPT.

1. Use the objective memorandum caption and format

When writing an objective memorandum, remember to include the objective memorandum caption and use the objective memorandum format illustrated below.

TO: [Recipient]
FROM: Examinee
DATE:
RE: [MPT name]

I. Introduction

(Explain the purpose of the memo and conclude the issue.)

II. Discussion

Heading 1: (Use objective **bolded** or underlined headings that address the issues. Use IRAC: Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion.)

Heading 2:

III. Conclusion

(Restate the conclusion from the Introduction.)

Not only does this signal to your grader that you are following the instructions in the Task Memo, but it also provides a good starting point and framework as you begin to write your objective memorandum.

2. Use objective headings

Because the objective memorandum is an objective task, it is important to use objective headings rather than persuasive headings. Students sometimes make the mistake of writing headings that seem to advocate for one position over another. Although it is appropriate to support one conclusion over another in an objective memorandum, the purpose is to provide the results of unbiased, objective, legal research and analysis.

3. Write objectively

In addition to using objective headings, remember to write objectively when creating an objective memorandum. Objective writing involves presenting the law and the facts and performing an analysis in an unbiased manner.

Writing objectively on an objective memorandum is an integral part of following the instructions in the Task Memo. Students sometimes lose sight of this and allow

their advocacy zeal to get the best of them and argue for one side or the other. Part of the purpose of an objective memorandum MPT is to test your ability to objectively analyze the law and the facts and come to a conclusion based on that legal analysis. Writing objectively allows you to perform that legal analysis accurately and come to the best possible conclusion.


4. Present both sides of the law

The examiners will often include law in the Library that provides a potentially **conflicting outcome** based on the facts at hand. Although it is important to come to conclusions on the issues as part of following the directions in the Task Memo and completing the document, it is also important to explain to your reader that some courts have decided the issue in a different way. Your grader will expect you to include this conflicting information in your objective memorandum and also expect you to provide a reason why you came to your conclusion despite this conflicting information.

Some students fear that presenting both sides of the law will make their objective memorandum weak. In fact, just the opposite is true! Presenting both sides of the law makes your objective memorandum **stronger** because it shows your grader that you

- (1) are aware of the conflicting law (i.e., you have read the Library!),
- (2) understand that conflicting law is part of most legal analyses, and
- (3) have the ability to determine the stronger legal position based on your analysis.

Persuasive Brief Tips

The persuasive brief is the second most frequently tested MPT task. A persuasive brief can be more challenging to write than an objective memorandum. There are some important things to keep in mind when writing a persuasive brief on the MPT. 

1. Use the persuasive brief caption and format

When writing a persuasive brief, remember to include the persuasive brief caption (if instructed to do so) and use the persuasive brief format illustrated below.