

I. intro

A. who I am

1. teaching and grading
2. test-taking book (grew out of exam-taking seminars)

B. my talk

1. talk a little about purpose of Miami midterm
2. then offer some concrete suggestions:
 - a) for *preparation*
 - b) for *taking* the exam
 - c) *after* taking the exam

II. the talk

A. the Miami midterm

1. purpose
 - a) give you an opportunity to see what a law exam is like
 - b) give you an opportunity to check on study skills & grasp of materials
2. some frequently asked questions:
 - a) why do we divide you up
 - (1) more feedback
 - (2) a glimpse at all professors
 - b) not tell you till the last minute (distraction)
 - c) not make it count (too early)
 - d) require it (my academic standards experience)

B. some concrete suggestions:

1. preparation:
 - a) between now and when you find out: nothing
 - b) between finding out and the exam:
 - (1) study hard but sanely
 - (2) otherwise:
 - (a) instead of finding out what it is like to take a law exam
 - (b) you'll find out what it is like to take one unprepared
 - (3) but sanely: get lots of rest
2. the exam: I'll have more on that in a moment

3. afterwards:
 - a) don't talk about it with classmates until you get it back
 - b) take full advantage of any feedback, best answers, etc.
 - c) re the other courses:
 - (1) take the test in exam conditions
 - (2) utilize all feedback mechanisms

III. tips for the exam itself:

- A. three tips that will apply to every law exam you take & every teacher
 1. follow instructions to the letter
 2. read & re-read the question
 3. answer the question asked
- B. talk a bit about a particular kind of law school exam question
 1. the issue-spotter exam
 - a) story
 - b) what are issues
 2. the answers
 - a) answer # 1
 - (1) law regurgitation
 - (2) "learned a lot of law and going to show it"
 - b) answer # 2
 - (1) fact regurgitation
 - (2) if not law, facts
 - c) answer # 3
 - (1) good start
 - (2) but not enough

- d) answer # 4
 - (1) analysis
 - (a) WHY are the issues issues
 - (b) what difference do they make
 - (2) why not enough?
 - (a) thank you for the map
 - (b) but what should I DO?
- e) answer # 5
 - (1) argument = answer that persuades
- f) answer # 6
 - (1) one-sided
 - (2) why?
 - (a) emotions
 - (b) role vs. Indiana Jones story