


Beyond Brief Writing

Breaking the mold of tedious, superficial briefing through strategic choices, charts and pictures, better issue-framing, and more.

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Writing:
somewhere between
torture and fun.

 The Wise Process

1

“All I want to do at
the end of the day
is curl up in bed
and enjoy a good
brief”

-SAID NO ONE, EVER.



2



The reader is an impatient bird, perched on the thin edge of distraction or sleep.

-*On Writing Well*
William Zinsser

3

Courts are busy



In FY2020* there were

- 3,450 new writs
- 1,043 new PDRs
- 618 new original proceedings



- 3,631 new criminal cases
- 5,074 new civil

*Source: Office of Court Administration, FY20 [Annual Statistical Report](#)

4

Courts are busy

8500 Total cases
-1000 dismiss'd (12% rate)
7500 briefed cases
x 1 hr reading (each
advocate uses ½
limit = 15,000
words @ 250/min)
7500 hrs/year

312 days

Courts of Appeals



- 3,631 new criminal cases
- 5,074 new civil

5

Using Visuals

6

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[2022 Robert O. Dawson eConference on Criminal Appeals](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 2022 Robert O. Dawson Conference on Criminal Appeals session "Beyond Brief Writing"