


# 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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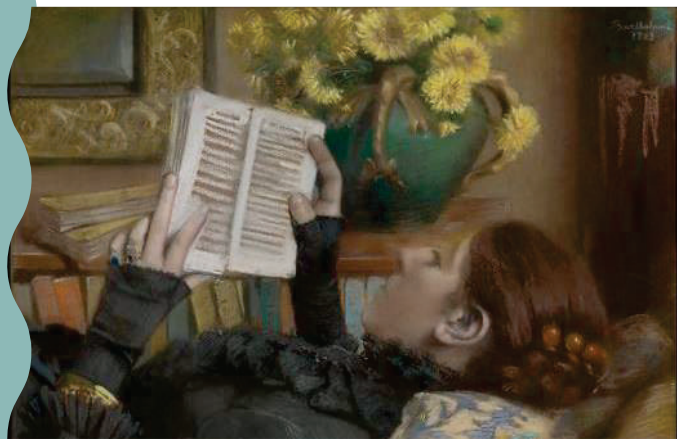
Writing:  
somewhere between  
torture and fun.

 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

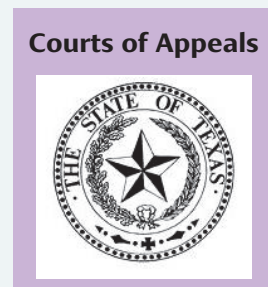
3

## 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

**Using Visuals**

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## Title search: Beyond Brief Writing

Also available as part of the eCourse

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

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