

MASTERING LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO WRITING SCHOLARLY LEGAL ARTICLES

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Abstract. Legal writing is fundamental to academic and professional legal practice, requiring clarity, critical analysis, appropriate methodology, and systematic organisation. This article provides a practical guide to writing scholarly legal articles by addressing essential stages of the writing and publication process. It discusses major forms of legal scholarship, including doctrinal, comparative, qualitative, case commentary, and mixed-method legal articles. The article outlines key pre-writing considerations involving topic selection, background research, identification of primary and secondary legal sources, and organisation of main ideas. It further explains the essential components of a scholarly manuscript, covering the abstract, keywords, introduction, literature review, methodology, findings and discussion, conclusion, recommendations, and references. Practical examples are incorporated to demonstrate how legal arguments, authorities, and research findings can be effectively structured and presented. Finally, the article highlights post-writing considerations, including journal selection, formatting, proofreading, originality checking, submission, and responding to editorial feedback to enhance publication readiness and scholarly quality.

Keywords: *legal writing, article, journal, academic writing*

Introduction

Legal articles refer to scholarly articles written by experts in the field on a variety of legal topics. Typically, a legal article can take any of the following forms (*Table 1*). Legal articles are typically authored by legal academics, practitioners, or advanced law students and are characterised by detailed analysis, extensive referencing, and critical engagement with legal issues (Sloan, 2009). Despite their importance, many aspiring legal writers struggle with structuring their ideas, identifying suitable topics, and navigating the publication process (Simons, 2006). This article synthesises practical guidance from legal writing seminars and academic literature to offer a roadmap for writing effective legal articles.

Table 1. *Types of legal article.*

No	Type of article	Explanation
1.	Doctrinal legal article	This type of article analyses existing statutes, legal theories, concepts, and case laws. It focuses on the interpretation of existing laws and judicial decisions (Duncan and Hutchinson, 2012). Examples: An article discussing the relevance of age of criminal responsibility under section 82 and 83 of the Penal Code, the doctrine of <i>doli incapax</i> , defences of infancy and cases such as <i>Public Prosecutor v. Lim Ah Leng</i> [1967] 1 MLJ 284. An article discussing the need for Freedom of Information Act by analysing freedom of speech under the Federal Constitution, freedom of information under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights conventions, the provisions of the Official Secrets Act 1972, and cases such as <i>Harris bin Mohd Salleh v. Chief Secretary, Government of Malaysia & Ors</i> [2023] MLJU 424.
2.	Comparative legal article	This type of article compares laws between different jurisdictions or legal systems. It highlights similarities and differences to suggest reforms or improvements (Van Hoecke, 2013). Examples: An article comparing the law on abortion in Malaysia, Singapore, and the United

		Kingdom. An article comparing the law on maintenance of wife and children under civil and Syariah law in Malaysia.
3.	Qualitative legal article	This type of article applies qualitative research methods to explore, analyse, and interpret legal issues. Field data from interviews, focus group discussion (FGD), or observation are used to understand how law operates in society by incorporating human experiences, perceptions, and contexts (Dobinson and Johns, 2007). Examples: An article on consumer protection in e-commerce platforms in Malaysia where consumers' feedback is obtained through semi-structured interviews. An article on regulating the gig economy and e-hailing law where several FGDs are conducted with the representatives from the Road Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, e-hailing companies, e-hailing drivers, and consumers.
4.	Case commentary or review	This type of article aims to critique or explain a specific legal case. It analyses the reasoning, implications, and relevance of a court decision (Kai, 2018). Examples: An article commenting on the decision of the Federal Court in <i>Maria Chin Abdullah v. Ketua Pengarah Imigresen & Anor</i> [2021] 2 CLJ 579 on personal liberty. An article commenting on the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion on Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (2024).
5.	Mixed-Method Legal Article	This type of article combines any of the above methods to provide a comprehensive analysis using multiple approaches i.e. doctrinal, comparative and qualitative methods (Blackham, 2022). Examples: An article on law on cyberbullying in Malaysia. The doctrinal approach analyses the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, Penal Code provisions, and international standards (e.g., UN CRC) while qualitative data is obtained through survey of secondary school or university students on their experiences with cyberbullying. Additionally, interviews with teachers, parents, and cybercrime officers are also conducted. An article on data privacy and Personal Data Protection Act 2010's awareness and compliance in small businesses. The doctrinal approach analyses PDPA 2010 provisions and case law. Global GDPR comparisons with EU and other countries are also conducted. In addition, interviews with SME owners and data protection officers are conducted.

Pre-writing consideration

Before embarking on the process of writing a scholarly legal article, it is essential for authors to engage in thorough preparation. Legal writing is not merely about presenting arguments as it requires strategic planning, critical thinking, and a clear understanding of the legal landscape. The pre-writing stage lays the foundation for a coherent and impactful article. Below are the key steps that should be undertaken.

Choosing the right topic

The selection of a topic is the cornerstone of any legal research (Meeker, 1996). Authors should aim to choose a subject that is: (1) Current and relevant to ongoing legal debates or reforms, (2) Supported by sufficient legal sources such as statutes, case law, and scholarly literature, and (3) Personally engaging and academically significant. Topics may be inspired by recent courts' judgments, legislative developments, media reports, or emerging societal issues. A topic must be supported by sufficient primary and secondary legal materials (Hamzani et al., 2023). This includes: (1) Statutes and regulations, (2) Case law from domestic and foreign jurisdictions (if any), (3) Government reports and policy papers, and (4) Scholarly articles and legal commentaries. Without adequate sources, the research may lack depth and credibility. Writers should ensure that the topic allows access to authoritative legal texts and interpretations. Besides, the topic should be neither too broad nor too narrow. A broad topic may lead to superficial analysis, while an overly narrow one may lack sufficient material (Athukorala et al., 2014). Writers should aim for a focused research question

that allows for detailed exploration within the constraints of word count and publication guidelines. Examples of topics that are too broad, too narrow and focused (*Table 2*). The chosen topic should also contribute to legal scholarship and, where possible, offer practical recommendations for law reform or policy development. Finally, the writer's own interest and familiarity with the subject matter play a crucial role. Writing on a topic that aligns with one's academic background or professional experience enhances motivation and insight, resulting in a more compelling and informed article.

Table 2. *Classification of topics in legal research.*

No	Topic	Classification and explanation
1.	"How does the Malaysian legal system deal with child offenders?"	Too broad. This topic encompasses multiple laws (Child Act, 2001 Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, and Syariah law). It also covers various stages of the formal justice system (arrest, trial, sentencing, rehabilitation). Therefore, it is difficult to address comprehensively in one article. It also risks being superficial without a clear research question.
2.	"Should the Court for Children impose a bond of good behaviour for 12 months on first-time offenders aged 14 and below under Section 91(e)?"	Too narrow. This topic focuses on a specific age group, duration, and offender type. It limits broader discussion on sentencing principles or rehabilitative outcomes. Thus, it may lack sufficient legal literature or case law to support a full-length article. This is better suited as a sub-topic or case study within a broader article.
3.	"Is the bond of good behaviour under Section 91 of the Child Act 2001 an effective rehabilitative measure for children in conflict with the law in Malaysia?"	Focused. This topic targets a specific sentencing option (bond of good behaviour). It anchors in a specific legal provision (Section 91) and connects to a clear research question about effectiveness and rehabilitation. It also allows for doctrinal analysis, case law review, and policy evaluation within a manageable scope.

Conducting background research

Once a topic is selected, comprehensive background research is necessary to understand the legal framework and scholarly discourse surrounding the issue. Without adequate research, legal arguments risk being superficial, unsupported, or disconnected from current legal realities. Effective background research involves engaging with both primary and secondary legal sources. Primary sources include legislation, case law, and official government publications (Yadav, 2023). These materials form the backbone of legal analysis, providing authoritative references for statutory interpretation and judicial reasoning. For example, when writing about e-commerce, one must examine the provisions of the Consumer Protection (Electronic Trade Transactions) Regulations 2012, the Contracts Act 1950, and the Personal Data Protection Act 2010, as well as relevant case law and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs. These legal instruments govern online transactions, digital consent, and consumer rights in Malaysia's growing digital economy. On the other hand, secondary sources offer critical perspectives and scholarly interpretations. These include journal articles, legal textbooks, commentaries, and conference papers (Barkan et al., 2009). They help writers understand how legal principles have been debated, applied, and critiqued over time. Engaging with secondary literature also allows the writer to identify gaps in existing research and position their article within ongoing academic conversations. In addition, modern legal research requires proficiency in navigating online legal databases. Platforms such as Lexis Advance, CLJ Law, eLaw, HeinOnline, and Westlaw provide access to a vast repository of legal materials, including statutes, case law, journal articles, and legal news. These tools enable efficient and targeted searches, helping writers gather relevant information quickly and accurately. For easy reference, it is recommended for the primary and secondary sources compiled in a table as follows (*Table 3*).

Example:

Title: Legal Status of Abortion in Malaysia and the United Kingdom: A Comparative Perspective (fictitious)

Table 3. Example of primary and secondary legal sources.

Type of source	Malaysia	United Kingdom
Primary legal sources	Federal Constitution; Article 5 - Right to life; Penal Code; Section 312 - 316 - Offences of causing miscarriage; Exception - To preserve the life or physical/mental health of the pregnant woman; Medical Act 1971; Regulates medical practitioners; Case laws: <i>Munah Binti Ali v. Public Prosecutor</i> [1958] 1 MLJ 159; <i>PP v. Dr Nadason Kanagaligam</i> [1985] 2 MLJ 122; <i>Pendakwa Raya v. Wong Ah Kean</i> [2010] 5 CLJ 599; Government's published documents: Guidelines on Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) for Hospitals in the Ministry of Health	Abortion Act 1967; Legalises abortion under specific conditions; Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; Amends and regulates abortion framework; Offences Against the Person Act 1861, ss.58–59; Criminalises unlawful abortion; Case laws: <i>R v. Bourne</i> [1939] 1 KB 687; <i>R v. Newton and Stungo</i> [1958] 1 QB 557; <i>R v. Smith (John Anthony James)</i> [1974] QB 354; <i>Jepson v. Chief Constable of West Mercia Police</i> [2003] EWHC 3318; Government's published documents: Abortion Statistics, England and Wales, 2022
Secondary legal sources	Husni, A. B. M., Basir, A. M., Nor, A. H. M., Laluddin, H., and Al-Samuri, M. A. (2013). Abortion in Malaysian law: a comparative study with Islamic jurisprudence. <i>Advances in Natural and Applied Sciences</i> , 39-51. Low, W. Y., Tong, W. T., Wong, Y. L., Jegasothy, R., and Choong, S. P. (2015). Access to safe legal abortion in Malaysia: women's insights and health sector response. <i>Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health</i> , 27(1), 33-37. Firzaa, N. R. (2019). A Comparative Legal Studies of Abortion Policies in Indonesia, Malaysia and England. <i>Indonesian Comparative Law Review</i> , 2(1), 28-38. Chow, B. J. H., and Ng, G. K. M. (2023, December). Abortion Law in Malaysia: Time to Review? In <i>Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Law and Digitalization 2023 (ICLD 2023)</i> (Vol. 791, p. 144). Springer Nature. Adibah, S. (2024). Abortion in Malaysia: challenges and necessity. In <i>Reimagining Faith and Abortion</i> (pp. 64-80). Policy Press.	Moon, D. S., Thompson, J., and Whiting, S. (2019). Lost in the process? The impact of devolution on abortion law in the United Kingdom. <i>The British Journal of Politics and International Relations</i> , 21(4), 728-745. Calkin, S., and Berny, E. (2021). Legal and non-legal barriers to abortion in Ireland and the United Kingdom. <i>Medicine Access@ Point of Care</i> , 5, 23992026211040023. Romanis, E. C. (2023). Abortion access and the benefits and limitations of abortion-permissive legal frameworks: Lessons from the United Kingdom. <i>Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics</i> , 32(3), 378-390. Mecinska, L., James, C., and Mukungu, K. (2024). Criminalisation of women accessing abortion and enforced mobility within the European Union and the United Kingdom. In <i>Criminalising Motherhood and Reproduction</i> (pp. 82-98). Routledge.

Organising main ideas

Effective legal writing requires a clear and logical structure (Osbeck, 2012). Once the topic and background research are established, authors should identify three to four core themes or arguments that will form the backbone of the article. These themes should be conceptually distinct yet interconnected, allowing the article to flow coherently from one section to the next. Each theme should be supported by relevant legal authorities, including statutory provisions, case law, and scholarly commentary. This ensures that the analysis is not only well-informed but also grounded in legal doctrine and practice. For instance, in an article examining status offences against minors in Malaysia, the core themes might include: (1) Definition and scope of status offences under Malaysian law, (2) Application of Article 8(1) of the Federal Constitution in relation to equality and discrimination, (3) International human rights standards under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC), (4) Comparative analysis with juvenile justice systems in other jurisdictions (e.g., UK, India), and (5) Policy recommendations for reforming status offence provisions. Drafting a skeletal framework at this stage is highly beneficial. It acts as a roadmap for the article, helping the writer maintain focus and avoid digressions (William, 2024). A well-structured outline typically includes: (1) Introduction: Establishes the context,

defines key terms, and states the research question. (2) Literature Review: Summarises existing scholarship and identifies gaps. (3) Methodology: Explains the research approach (e.g., doctrinal, comparative, qualitative). (4) Discussion: Presents the core arguments with legal analysis. (5) Conclusion: Summarises findings and suggests future research or reforms.

Structuring the manuscript

A well-structured manuscript is essential for clarity, coherence, and academic rigour in legal writing. Legal articles typically follow a standard format that guides the reader through the research process, from problem identification to conclusion. This structure is widely adopted in Malaysian legal scholarship and conforms to publication guidelines.

Abstract

The abstract is a concise summary (usually 200–250 words) that encapsulates the core elements of the article. It should include: (Tullu, 2019) Problem statement: What legal issue is being addressed? Objectives: What does the article aim to achieve? Methodology: What research methods were used? Key findings: What are the main results or arguments? Recommendations: What reforms or future research are suggested?

Example:

Title: From Literalism to Liberalism: Judicial Interpretation of Freedom of Information in Malaysia and Way Forward

Abstract:

Problem statement: The essence of a democratic society is closely tied to freedom of information. However, in the Malaysian context, no specific statute explicitly grants this right to the public. While the Constitution's Article 10(1) ensures the right to freedom of speech and expression, it does not explicitly cover the right to information despite international recognition. Objectives: This article aims to delve into judicial interpretations to determine whether freedom of information is constitutionally protected in Malaysia. It explores two conflicting approaches to constitutional interpretation, namely the literal and liberal methods, which yield contrasting outcomes. Methodology: This study employs a doctrinal approach in analysing relevant written law, court judgements and previous literature on freedom of information. Key findings: The analysis concludes that there has been a noticeable shift in the judiciary towards a more receptive stance on liberal interpretation in recent years. Recommendation: Nevertheless, enacting a federal statute explicitly addressing freedom of information is deemed the most effective course of action to safeguard this right in Malaysia and remove the ambiguities of judicial interpretation.

Keywords

In legal scholarship, keywords serve as an essential tool for enhancing the visibility, accessibility, and academic impact of an article. They provide concise descriptors of the article's main themes, enabling indexing services, databases, and search engines to

categorise the work accurately for potential readers (Barkan et al., 2009). A legal article usually requires up to five keywords to be included after the abstract.

Example:

Title: Amendments of Sabah Labour Ordinance in Protecting Employees' Rights and Welfare (fictitious)

Keywords:

Sabah Labour Ordinance; employee's rights; labour law; employment protection; welfare

Introduction

The introduction of a legal article serves as the foundation upon which the entire research is built. It must effectively orient the reader by presenting the legal issue in context, defining key concepts, stating the research objectives, and outlining the structure of the article (Barkan et al., 2009). A well-crafted introduction not only captures the reader's attention but also establishes the relevance and scope of the inquiry.

Example:

Title: Parental Liability Law in Malaysia for Children's Misconduct: A Legal Overview

Introduction:

"Effective parenting and discipline play a crucial role in Parents play a pivotal role The concept of parental responsibility encompasses two primary dimensions. Firstly, Secondly, the Nevertheless, the intervention of the government reflects a recognition that parental responsibility alone may not be sufficient in ensuring the optimal development and protection of children [Legal issue]. Parental liability law refers to the legal liability of the parents or guardians for their negligence in failing to control their children's delinquent acts ... [Key concept]. The article conducts a thorough analysis of the concept of parental liability concerning juvenile delinquency, exploring its dimensions within the frameworks of criminal law, the Child Act 2001 (Act 611), tort law, and Shariah law by examining ... This article discusses... [Objective and structure of the article]."

Literature review

The literature review is a critical component of any scholarly legal article. It serves to position the research within existing academic discourse, identify gaps in knowledge, and establish the theoretical and doctrinal foundations upon which the article is built (Nuruddeen, 2015). In legal research, the literature review is not merely a summary of previous works but an analytical engagement with the scholarship that informs the research question and methodology. Legal literature reviews must go beyond descriptive summaries and instead critically evaluate the relevance, consistency, and authority of the sources consulted (Duncan and Hutchinson, 2012). In order to produce a good quality literature review, the authors should organise the literature around themes or issues, not just authors or chronology (Mauer and Venecek, 2022). This helps

readers follow the development of ideas and legal arguments. Besides, a literature review should also identify gaps in the existing literature and how your article will fill that gap.

Example:

Title: Dealing with Juvenile Delinquency: The Relevance of Icelandic Prevention Model to Malaysia

Literature Review:

Juvenile delinquency remains a critical area of concern within Malaysia's social and legal landscape, drawing increasing attention from researchers. This section discusses literature written on juvenile delinquency in Malaysia, focusing on its prevalence, contributing factors, and the effectiveness of current legal and social interventions.

Risk Factors for Delinquency

The risk factors for juvenile delinquency in Malaysia were addressed by various scholars. In the study among... identified family breakdown, peer influence, school environment, technological influence, and societal environment as risk factors which lead them to engage in criminal behaviour (Author, year). ... identified family environment, poor academic performance, peer pressure, and individual attributes as primary risk factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency [contents of literature] (Author, year). However, both studies largely focus on the identification of general socio-demographic and behavioural factors, without sufficiently exploring how these risk factors interact with broader legal, policy, and institutional frameworks in Malaysia [gaps in the literature] ...Addressing this gap would allow for a more holistic understanding of delinquency that integrates both social influences and the adequacy of Malaysia's legal response. There is a need for a socio-legal perspective that links these risk factors with the adequacy of laws, enforcement mechanisms, and child protection policies in preventing juvenile delinquency [filling the gap].

Methodology

The methodology section of a legal article explains how the research was conducted, what sources were used, and why the chosen approach is appropriate for answering the research question. In legal writing, methodology is often qualitative, doctrinal, or comparative (Budianto, 2020). The author needs to explain why the chosen method is suitable for the topic. For example: "This study adopts a doctrinal approach to examine the constitutionality of status offences under Article 8(1) of the Federal Constitution. This method is appropriate as it allows for detailed analysis of statutory provisions, judicial interpretations, and constitutional principles." If the study uses qualitative research methods, the methodology section must clearly explain how data was collected, who was involved, and how validity was ensured. Two critical components are sampling techniques and data saturation (Islam and Aldaihani, 2022). Common sampling techniques in legal research are: (Rai and Thapa, 2015) (Table 4).

Table 4. Common sampling techniques.

Technique	Description	Example
Purposive sampling	Selecting individuals with specific knowledge or experience	Interviewing judges of the Court for Children on status offences

Snowball sampling	Initial participants refer others who meet the criteria	Lawyers who were interviewed refer the researcher to his peers who also handle juvenile cases
Maximum variation	Capturing diverse perspectives across demographics or roles	Including police, social workers, NGOs and legal officers in a study on status offences against children

In qualitative research, sample size is determined by saturation, not by statistical formulas. Saturation occurs when additional data no longer yields new insights or themes. Wutich et al. (2024) provide empirical guidance on sample sizes for different saturation types, recommending 9 to 30 interviews depending on the depth and complexity of the study, when no new themes have emerged. When writing methodology, the authors should include: How participants were selected (e.g., purposive sampling of juvenile justice professionals), How many were interviewed, How saturation was assessed (e.g., no new legal themes emerged after the 12th interview), Why the sample size is appropriate (e.g., consistent with prior studies in similar legal contexts), and How informed consent was obtained, how confidentiality was maintained, and whether ethical clearance was granted (especially when interviewing minors or vulnerable groups).

Example:

Title: The Perspectives of Child-related Professionals on the Adequacy of Rehabilitation in the Malaysian Juvenile Justice Framework (fictitious)

Methodology:

This study employed a qualitative research design using purposive sampling to select 15 participants, including juvenile court judges, legal officers, and child protection advocates. Interviews were semi-structured and conducted over a two-month period. Saturation was reached by the 13th interview, as no new themes emerged regarding the interpretation and enforcement of status offences under the Child Act 2001. This approach aligns with recommendations by Wutich et al. (2024) and Islam and Aldaihani (2022), who emphasise the importance of saturation in ensuring methodological rigor in qualitative legal research.

Findings and discussions

The Findings and Discussion section is the analytical core of a legal article (Annesley, 2010). It presents the results of the research and interprets them considering legal principles, case law, and scholarly commentary, and where applicable qualitative data from the interview or focus group discussion (Dobinson and Johns, 2007). In legal writing, this section should not only describe what the law says but also critically evaluate how it is applied, interpreted, and whether it aligns with broader legal and constitutional values (Rubin, 1988).

Example:

Title: Is the bond of good behaviour under Section 91 of the Child Act 2001 an effective rehabilitative measure for children in conflict with the law in Malaysia? (fictitious)

Step 1: Begin by analysing the relevant statutory provisions. For example:

Section 91 of the Child Act 2001 empowers the Court for Children to impose various orders on child offenders, including detention, probation, and bonds of good

behaviour. While these provisions aim to rehabilitate children in conflict with the law, their application...

Step 2: Support analysis with case law. For example:

The age of a child in conflict with the law plays an essential role in determining the sentence to be imposed because.... In Re Marimuthu 9 Cr LJ 392, the court held that a child cannot be found guilty unless it is proven that the child had attained sufficient maturity...

Step 3: Add scholarly commentary by engaging with academic literature to contextualise the findings:

Randawar et al. (2025) argued that good behaviour bond reflects rehabilitative purpose of sentencing as it allows the child in conflict with the law to continue to be cared for by the family and not placed in child institution. This sentence also seeks to reintegrate the children into society rather than just punishing them.

Step 4: If the study includes comparative analysis, highlight how other jurisdictions handle similar issues:

In Australia, particularly in states like New South Wales and Victoria, a good behaviour bond is a formal sentencing option for juveniles, requiring the child to remain law-abiding for a set period, often under supervision, with breach leading to re-sentencing or forfeiture of bond money. While both countries aim to rehabilitate young offenders, Australia's system is more explicit and structured in using good behaviour bonds as a legal tool, whereas Malaysia's approach is embedded within broader child protection and juvenile justice frameworks.

Step 5: If the study includes interviews or FGDs, those findings need to be integrated with legal analysis. Use thematic coding to identify patterns and support your arguments.

In the course of this study, qualitative interviews were conducted with two key stakeholders involved in juvenile justice in Malaysia: a senior social welfare officer and a judge from the Court for Children. For confidentiality, both participants are referred to anonymously. The social welfare officer, who has over a decade of experience working with at-risk youth, expressed concern over the limitations of current legal tools. She noted that while supervision orders and institutional placements are available under the Child Act 2001, the success of bond of good behaviour as a sentencing option largely relies on parental supervision. She said "We often rely on counselling and family engagement, but without a formal behavioural contract, it's difficult to ensure consistency in follow-up or consequences for breach" (fictitious). Meanwhile, the judge from the Court for Children echoed a similar sentiment....

Conclusion and recommendations

In an academic article, the conclusion serves to: Summarise key points discussed in the article, Reiterate the main argument or thesis, Reflect on the implications of the findings, and Provide recommendations for legal reform, policy changes, or future research directions. In order to write an effective conclusion, the author should: Restate the research problem and objectives briefly. Summarise major findings from doctrinal,

comparative, or qualitative analysis. Offer practical recommendations, such as: Legislative amendments. Policy improvements. Institutional reforms. Suggestions for further academic inquiry.

Example:

Title: Sentencing Child Offenders in Malaysia: When Practice Meets its Purpose

Conclusion:

While formal recognition of restorative justice and diversion programmes is still absent from the Child Act 2001, certain provisions under the Act manifest the idea of rehabilitation and reintegration of child offenders [Problem Statement and Objective]. The judicial inclination towards imposing noncustodial sentences such as admonition and discharge, bond of good behaviour, compensation, fines or costs, order to be cared for by a relative or fit person, and community service order signifies court's commitment to uphold restorative justice [Key Findings]. To further strengthen the support towards restorative justice, it is recommended that Child Act 2001 be amended to formally incorporate restorative justice initiatives [Recommendation].

References

For the references section, the author needs to ensure compliance with the referencing style required by the publisher, whether APA, MLA, Chicago, or any institution's house style citation (Lipson, 2011). They need to be arranged alphabetically. For cases, the full citations must be provided, including the case name, year, report series, volume, and page number. Example: PP v. Mohd Radzi Abu Bakar [2006] 1 CLJ 457. For statutes, the author needs to provide the full name of the Act, the year, and the section(s) cited, for instance, Penal Code (Act 574), ss. 82 - 83. For other types of references, compliance with the specific citation style is important.

Post-writing considerations

After completing a legal article, several post-writing steps are essential to ensure the manuscript meets academic standards and is ready for publication. Authors should begin by selecting a suitable journal, considering whether it is indexed in reputable databases (Knight and Steinbach, 2008) such as SCOPUS, Web of Science (WOS), Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), or MyCite, as these platforms enhance the visibility and credibility of scholarly work. It is equally important to check for any publication or article processing fees, which may vary depending on the journal's policies. Proper formatting must be ensured, adhering to the required referencing style, whether APA, MLA, Chicago, or any institution's house style citation (Lipson, 2011). Proofreading is a critical step to eliminate grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and improve clarity. Authors should also run a similarity check using tools like Turnitin to ensure originality and avoid plagiarism (Nurhayati, 2022). Once the manuscript is polished, it should be submitted according to the journal's guidelines. After submission, authors must be prepared to respond to editorial feedback. If the article is accepted without amendments, it proceeds directly to publication. If amendments are requested, authors should revise accordingly and resubmit for final approval. These steps collectively enhance the quality and integrity of the legal article, increasing its chances of successful publication.

Conclusion

In summary, this article provides a comprehensive foundation for writing scholarly legal articles, emphasising both structure and substance. It outlines essential pre-writing steps such as topic selection, background research, and framework drafting, which are critical to shaping a coherent and focused manuscript. The article also details the standard structure of legal writing from abstract to references, ensuring clarity and academic rigour. The emphasis on doctrinal, comparative, and qualitative methodologies reflects the diverse approaches available to legal researchers. Importantly, the article highlights the role of findings and discussion in contextualising legal issues within statutory frameworks and judicial interpretations.

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Conflict of interest

The authors confirm that there is no conflict of interest involve with any parties in this research study.

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