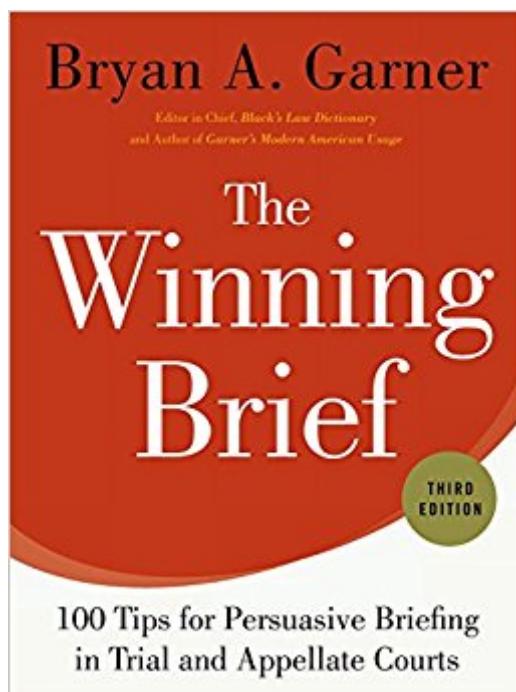


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# The Winning Brief: 100 Tips For Persuasive Briefing In Trial And Appellate Courts



## Synopsis

In its first two editions, *The Winning Brief* explained the art of effective writing in 100 concise, practical, and easy-to-use tips, proving that the key to writing well is to understand the judicial readership. This third edition of Bryan A. Garner's modern classic delivers the same invaluable guidelines with even more supporting evidence. Covering everything from the rules for planning and organizing a brief to openers that can capture a judge's attention from the first few words, these tips add up to the most compelling, orderly, and visually appealing brief that an advocate can present. In Garner's view, good writing is good thinking put to paper. "Never write a sentence that you couldn't easily speak," he warns - and demonstrates how to do just that. Every tip begins with a set of quotable quotes from experts, followed by Garner's masterly advice on building sound paragraphs, drafting crisp sentences, choosing the best words ("Strike pursuant to from your vocabulary."), quoting authority, citing sources, and designing a document that looks as impressive as it reads. Throughout, Garner shows how to edit for maximal impact, using vivid before-and-after examples that apply the basics of rhetoric to persuasive writing. In this much-expanded third edition, Garner has perfected the text with nine new tips, hundreds of new examples, and amplified explanations throughout - all in his trademark style. Among the new sections are tips on understanding judges' reading habits, answering opponents' arguments, writing effective reply briefs, using authorities persuasively, and organizing arguments based on statutes and contracts. Quotable quotes, which Garner carefully assembled after years of wide reading and close study, have been expanded and improved throughout the book. There is also a new appendix on a remarkable brief that some consider the best ever written ("a beautiful marriage of rhetorical skill, thorough research, and humane lawyering"). Perhaps the biggest change to this edition is that every tip now ends with a summary checklist that recaps and crystalizes the subpoints just covered, with further ideas for improvement. Garner conceived these checklists in part as a way to help readers approach his book as a set of 100 tutorials. Reviewing and practicing each tip will offer brief-writers a degree of mastery that more cavalier colleagues will find difficult to equal. An invaluable resource for attorneys, law clerks, judges, paralegals, law students and their teachers, *The Winning Brief* has the qualities that make all of Garner's books so popular: authority, accessibility, and page after page of techniques that work. If you're writing to win a case, this book shouldn't merely be on your shelf--it should be open on your desk.

## Book Information

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"He is a word man without peer, and his usage and grammar rules are gospel." --The Journal of Appellate Practice and Process "All lawyers who rely upon written argument in their practices shoud have a copy of the book close at hand." --New York Law Journal "A thoroughly valuable and original reference for lawyers who want to win. It deserves a spot on every litigator's bookshelf." --The Federal Lawyer "All judges should attach a copy of The Winning Brief to each briefing schedule they order from the bench.... A valuable addition to any library with legal writing resources." --Legal Information ALERT "A book on 'writing' should be fun to read. In his book, Garner makes his teaching fun with the use of examples and quotations.... The more time you spend with this book, the more persuasive you arguments could be, whether in support of a motion or in support of habeas corpus." --The Colorado Lawyer "The profession badly needs an accessible primer for advice on and solutions to the most common problems. Bryan Garner's The Winning Brief: 100 Tips for Persuasive Briefing in Trial and Appellate Courts is just such text. All lawyers who rely upon written argument in their practices shoud have a copy of the book close at hand." --New York Law Journal

A best-selling legal author with more than a dozen titles to his credit, Bryan Garner is also the editor-in-chief of Black's Law Dictionary in all of its current editions. He has taught at numerous law schools, and is the president of LawProse, Inc., a Dallas-based company that provides writing and drafting seminars to lawyers and judges throughout the United States.

This book is a must. Even though it has the hideous word "tips" in the title, the book is organized

and clear. Every time you turn the page you'll find another gem that will improve your writing. Some tips are global and overarching. For example, Garner at once exposes and destroys unconscious assumptions of the reader. Other tips are on a practical level like how to simplify the heading-subheading scheme so the reader understands your progression of arguments. And still other tips sound like a life coach teaching self discipline methods like clarifying what you need to know before you write. Worth the price. Keep on the shelf for long time to come.

This book has some great examples of formatting and common logic structure. It borrows, however, almost entirely from the Solicitor General's formatting and style guide. Four stars because of the writer's pretentiousness.

If you have any troubles with writing, this is the book for you. Alternatively, if you want to polish your already decent writing this is a must have.

An extraordinarily well written and extremely useful book. It fulfills the requirement so well expressed in the classic admonition to all writers: "Don't tell me, show me!" Brian Garner preaches by telling us how to organize our thoughts, and shows us how to write clearly and persuasively by the way he has written this easily read book. Get it now!

This book made my grade in my legal writing class. If your law school's writing program fails to give you adequate materials, or the materials given are plainly awful, this book is a great way to refine your writing skills. Read it and combine the ideas with the assignment's instructions. The most important thing is to give your professor what he/she wants. For instance, if your professor wants a one sentence question presented in the form of a statement, which is the exact polar opposite of what this book suggests, give your professor what he/she wants and use this book to guide the content (as opposed to the structure).

Don't try to draft a brief without reading this book or one like it. Legal writing is a new language, with new rules, many of them counter-intuitive. This book will spare you many elementary mistakes and vastly increase the quality of your brief writing.

This book has wonderful, practical advice for those beginning their journey into legal writing. However, as a first year law student I had no time to read it so I didn't get the benefit of the helpful

info until my 2nd year. So my advice to you, read before you start and cruise through it again after your first year. It really does have great info.

EXCELLENT! I only bought the Kindle version of this book because I needed it IMMEDIATELY! There is a new release that I'm sure is even better, just not in Kindle format yet. I much prefer print, so will buy it as well. I desperately needed an immediate reference and this did not disappoint! Author's credentials are phenomenal. Highly recommend!

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