Clarity in press communication



Kornel BOHM
Court and Communication
Conference

12th October, 2017







16. Court documents and judicial decisions shall be drafted in an accessible, simple and clear language. Judges shall issue reasoned decisions, pronounced in public within a reasonable time, based on fair and public hearing. Judges shall use appropriate case management methods.

MAGNA CARTA OF JUDGES, Strasbourg, 2010

"7.) Judiciaries should take all necessary steps to promote the public confidence in the courts. Openness, transparency, accountability, respect for the citizen, empathy with their situation, the development of courts' activity, the delivery of judgements and other judicial decisions in a clear and comprehensible language are essential features to achieve that purpose. Access to justice must be ensured including appropriate measures to assist and facilitate access to courts for persons of special vulnerability." Vilnius Declaration, ENCJ, 2011



Verdict (1954) 4000 words

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                             individual decision security
                                                       title parents rule issue
thusheadnote
process appeal reviewindeed reason political
                           subject education fact time
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                     arms meaning matter Cases conclusion citizens based
                     injury Schildren circuit further
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Rehearing of one single aspect (2007) – 47.000 words!





Jimmy Carter, executive order, 1978: regulations to be written in plain English



Clinton memorandum, 1998: We are determined to make the Government more responsive, accessible, and understandable in its communications with the public. The Federal Government's writing must be in plain language. By using plain language, we send a clear message about what the Government is doing, what it requires, and what services it offers. Plain language saves the Government and the private sector time, effort, and money.



Obama, Plain Writing Act (2010): federal agencies use "clear Government communication that the public can understand and use." "[our regulatory system] must ensure that regulations are accessible, consistent, written in plain language, and easy to understand."

the main cause of over-complication is the judiciary system itself - Alan Siegel



Credit card contract / 1980: 1.5 page

Today: 31 pages!



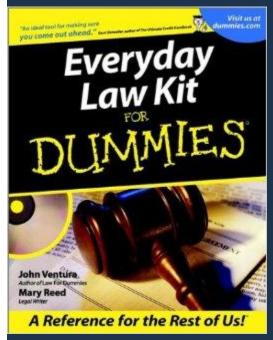


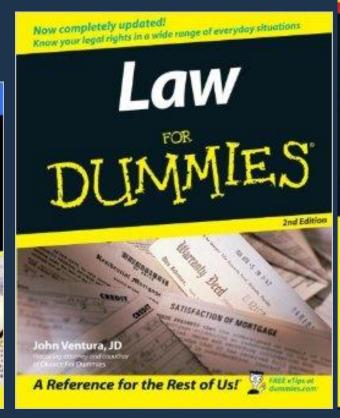
Small prints

- ✓ Distrust
- ✓ Being lost
- ✓ Defenseless
- ✓ Vulnerability
- ✓ Despondency









Constitutional Law

DUMMIES

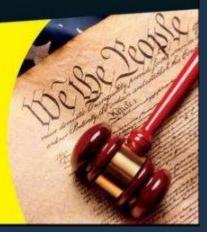
Learn to:

- Break down complicated material into easy-to-understand parts
- Grasp the parameters and applications of the U.S. Constitution
- Understand the ins and outs of the Supreme Court and constitutional interpretation

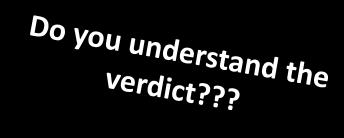
Glenn C. Smith, JD, LLM

Professor of Constitutional Law, California Western School of Law

Patricia Fusco, JD

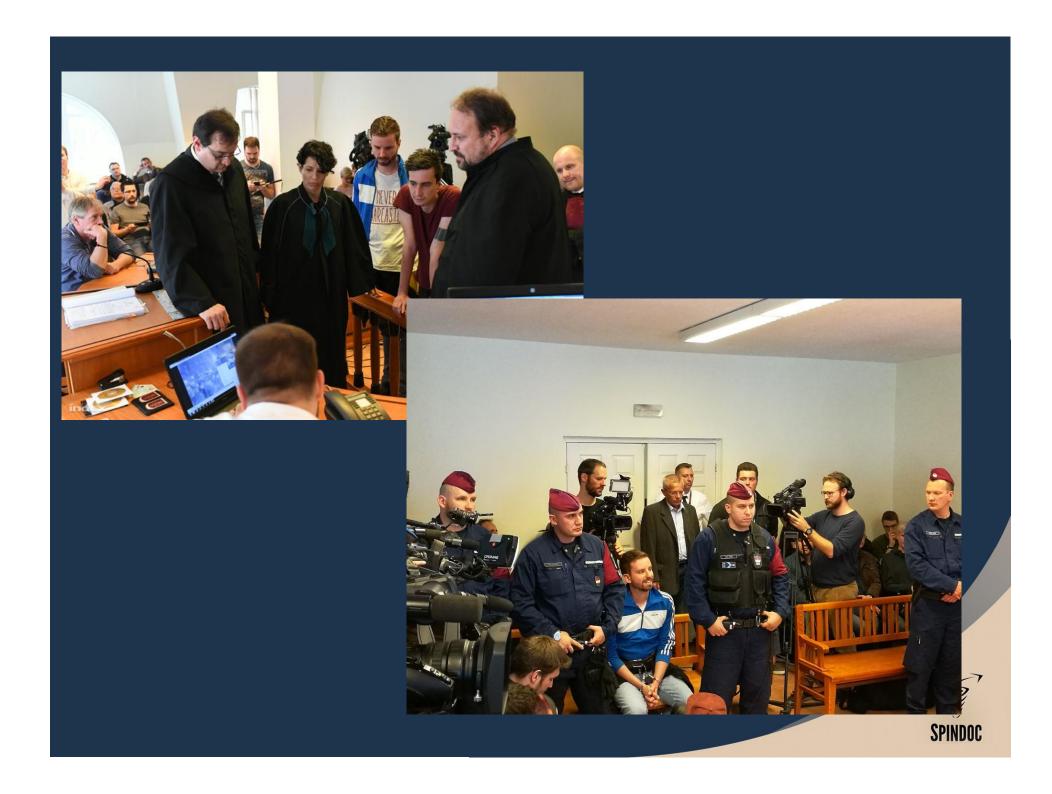






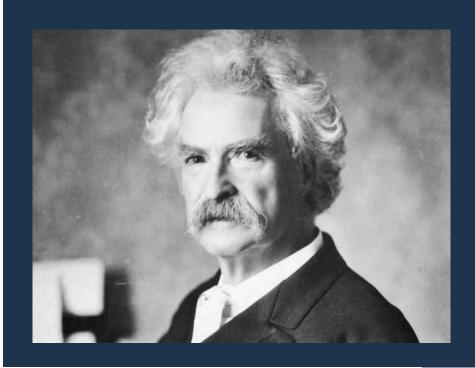






"It usually takes me more than three weeks to prepare a good impromtu speech..."

Mark Twain









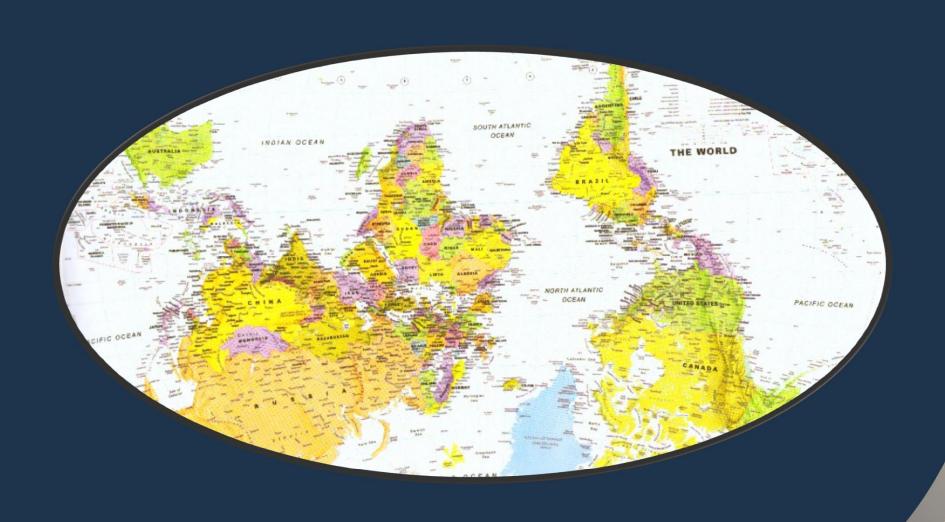
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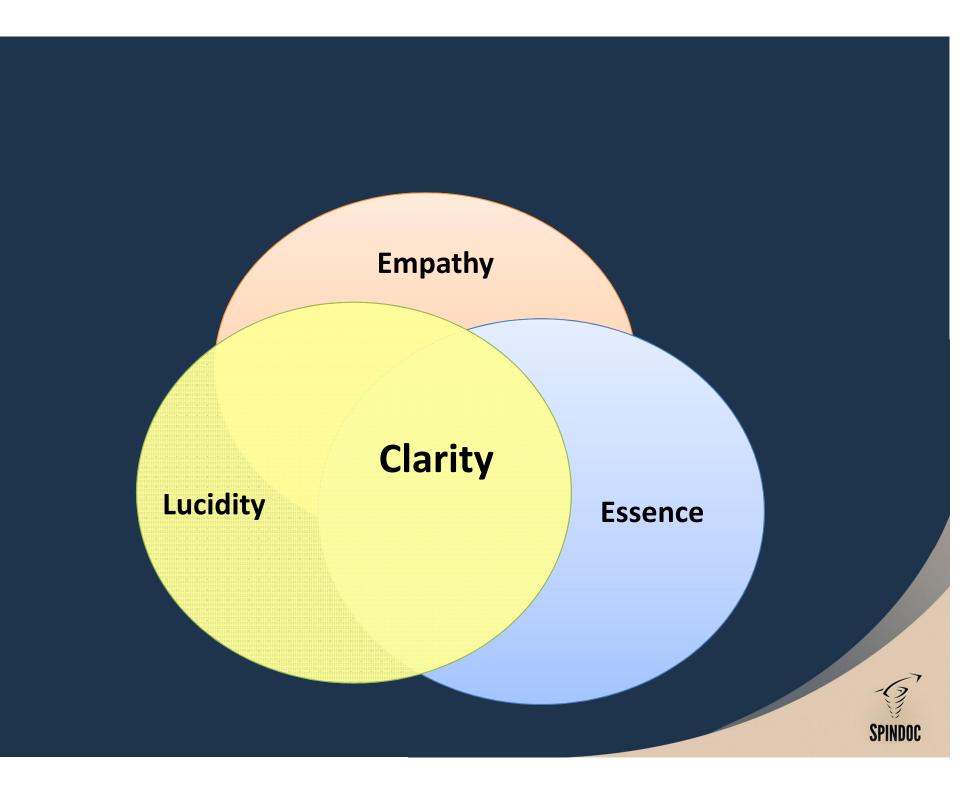






















"There will be no school Thursday."



When does text work?

- ✓ Understandable
- ✓ Recallable
- ✓ Focusing on the essence
- ✓ Short
- ✓ Logical structure
- ✓ Coherent
- ✓ Real and punctual



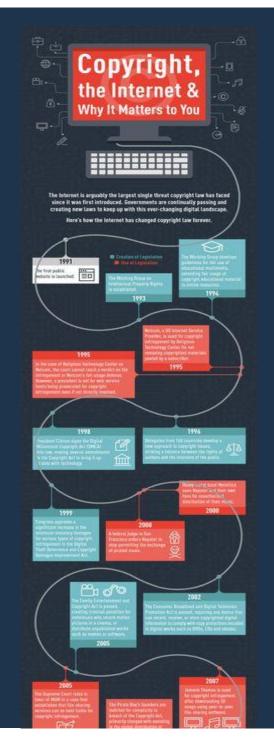


What tools do we have?

- ✓ lead
- ✓ setup
- ✓ Headlines and sub headlines
- ✓ bullet points
- ✓ quotations
- ✓ Lacking of jargons
- ✓ Metaphors
- ✓ Pictorial language
- ✓ Summary of sections, end summary









Online Utility - English Language - Text - Math - Other -

Tests Document Readability

Readability Calculator



or read it Process t





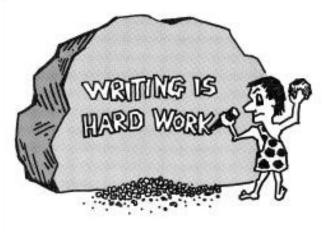
This free online software tool calculates readability: Coleman Liau index, Flesch Kincaid Grade Level, ARI (Automated Readability Index), SMOG. The measure of readability used here is the indication of number of years of education that a person needs to be able to understand the text easily on the first reading. Comprehension tests and skills training.

This tool is made primarily for English texts but might work also for some other languages. In general, these tests penalize writers for polysyllabic words and long, complex sentences. Your writing will score better when you: use simpler diction, write short sentences.

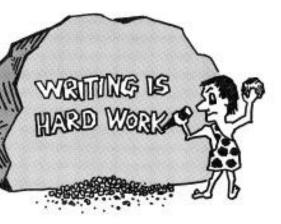
It also displays complicated sentences (with many words and syllables) with suggestions for what you might do to improve its readability.

Basic text statistics are also displayed, including number of characters, words, sentences, and average number of characters per word, syllables per word, and words per sentence.

Enter text (copy and paste is fine) here:



S.No.	Average sentence length (words)	Average sentence length (syllables)	Description of style
1	29 or more	56 or more	Very difficult
2	25	42	Difficult
3	21	33	Fairly difficult
4	17	25	Standard
5	14	19	Fairly Easy
6	11	14	Easy
7	8 or less	10 or less	Very easy









Thank you!



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