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Tuning in not zoning out...

Sanmeet Kaur and Emily Allbon
The City Law School



Flexibility of learning

LEARNMORE
EXPAND YOUR LEGAL MIND

law tutorials by
lawbore

HELLO THERE!
Feel free to poke about in my head.
It's like a book in there. There's
something for everyone.
Go on - have a rummage!

LEARNMORE is an ever-growing collection of online tutorials, videos and learning materials, especially written by us to help new law students learn important skills.

Explore the six different categories by moving the mouse over and clicking the areas in our law student's brain.

Done Internet 100%

The challenge: improving student engagement re legal skills



- ▶ Legal research
- ▶ Legal writing
- ▶ Public speaking

- ▶ Exam skills
- ▶ Career planning skills
- ▶ Making the most of being an LLB student (aka newbie)



Current problems

- ▶ Traditional format lecture/tutorial
- ▶ Managing student expectation
- ▶ Skills gap: A-levels – degree
- ▶ Type of student and tools available markedly different
- ▶ Students live in ‘connected world’ where the visual = king



How to ensure students really do tune in and not zone out...

- ▶ **We'll look at:**
 - ▶ Enhancing post-classroom experience
 - ▶ Aligning skills with multimedia
 - ▶ Peer learning
 - ▶ Better and targeted research



Student feedback November 2010

'Learnmore = a confidence booster for all new students'

'Learnmore is a must for any student new to studying law'

'Everything overwhelming at start and Learnmore is very reassuring'

'We know we're not on our own'

'Gives you the extra help and techniques you need to survive in this course'

'Pretty useful as I found it all very scary at the start of the course'

'A gateway to success – one-stop shop. Focuses on what is necessary and crucial to your success'

'Tailor-made to us as City students'



Enhancing the post-lecture experience

- ▶ Allowing students a space to:
 - ▶ Reflect on skills taught
 - ▶ Relate taught skills to learning objectives
 - ▶ Discuss/practice with others
 - ▶ Improve students communication skills



Advantages / disadvantages to such a resource

+ points

- ▶ Get students attention
- ▶ Available 24/7
- ▶ Helps perception of provision
- ▶ 'friendly'

- points

- ▶ Labour intensive to create
- ▶ Project planning
- ▶ Tech skills needed
- ▶ Constant monitoring
- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Keeping fresh!



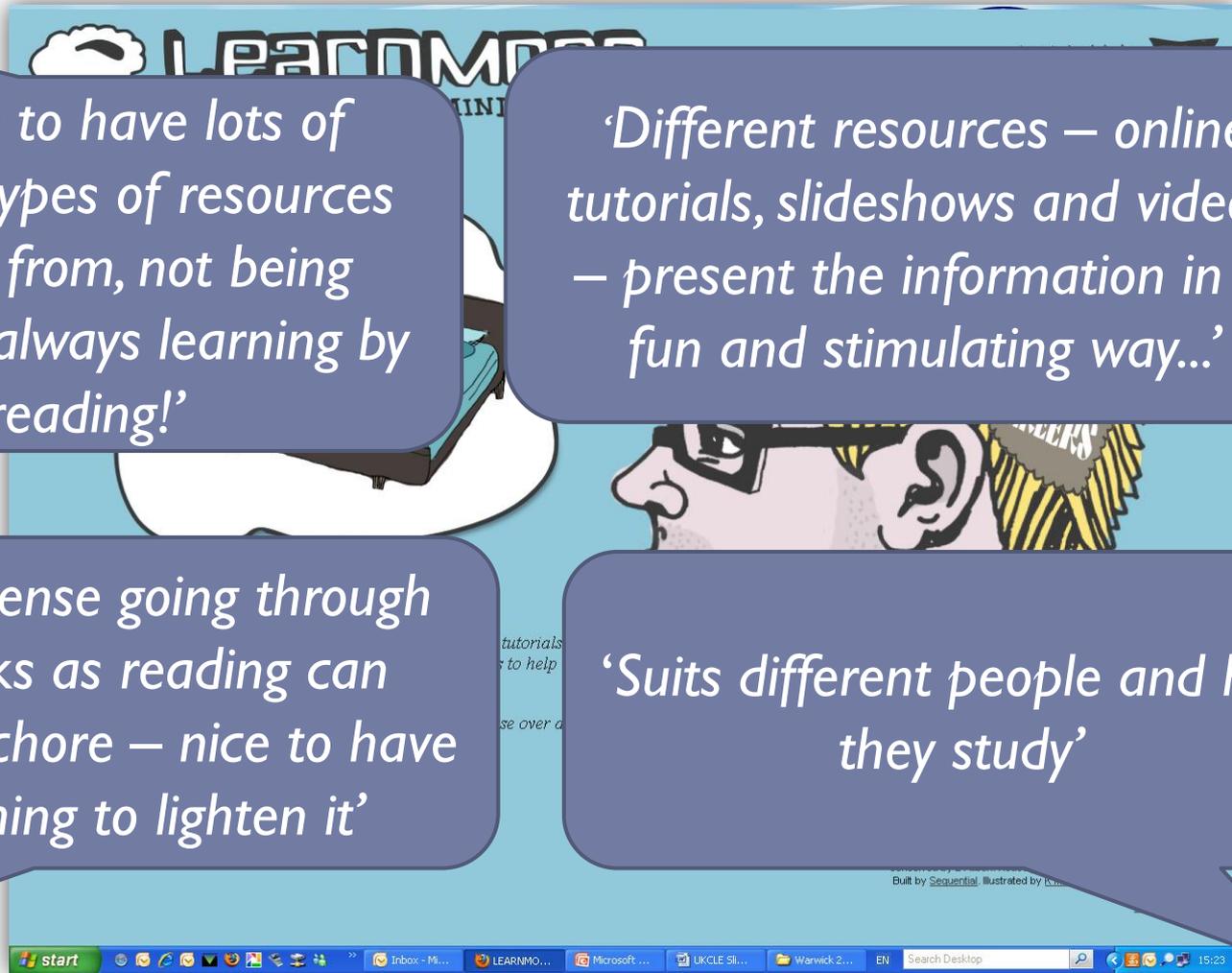
What do the students think about Learnmore as a learning resource?

'It helps to have lots of different types of resources to learn from, not being reliant on always learning by reading!'

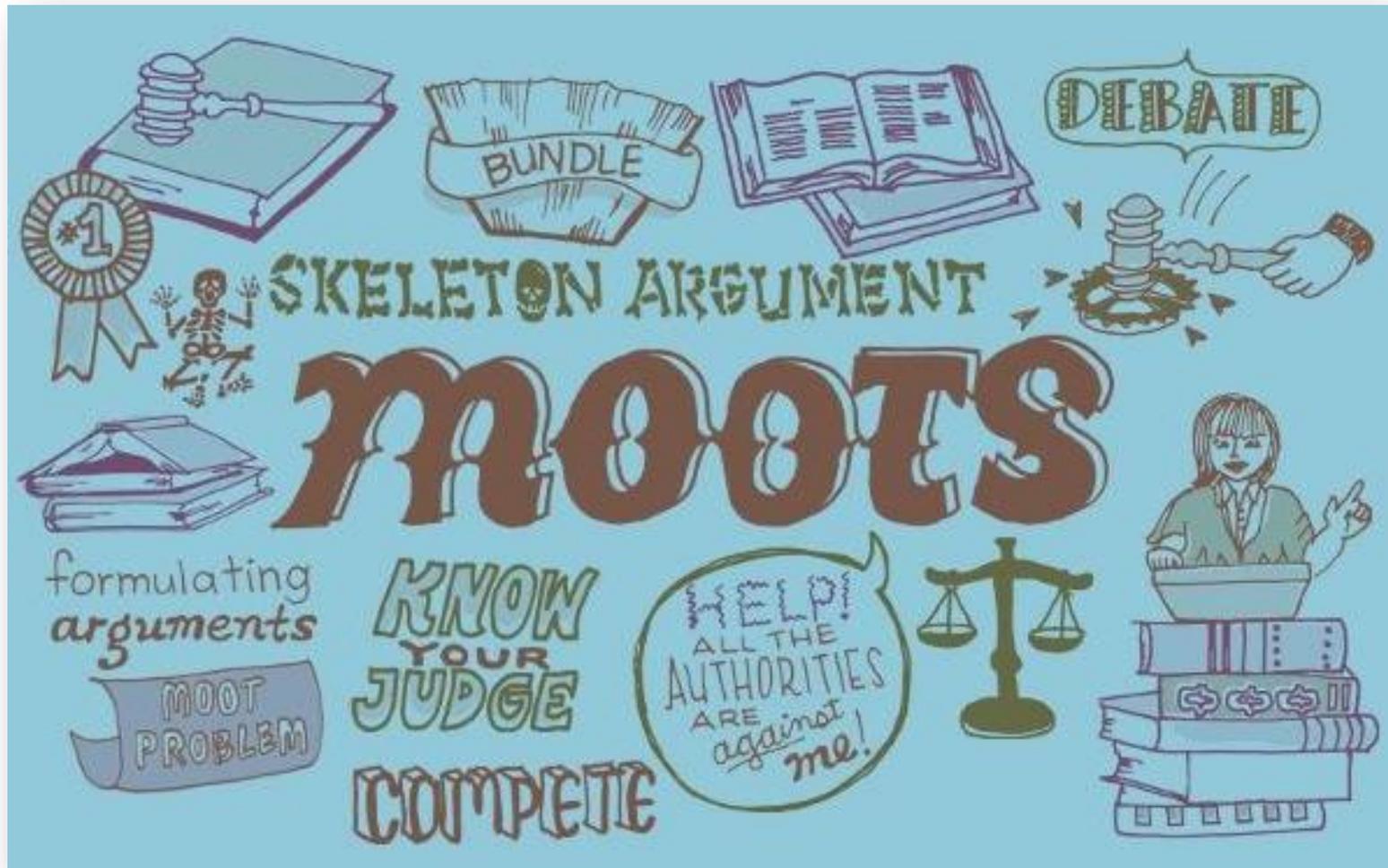
'Different resources – online tutorials, slideshows and videos – present the information in a fun and stimulating way...'

'It gets intense going through textbooks as reading can become a chore – nice to have something to lighten it'

'Suits different people and how they study'



Let's take a look...



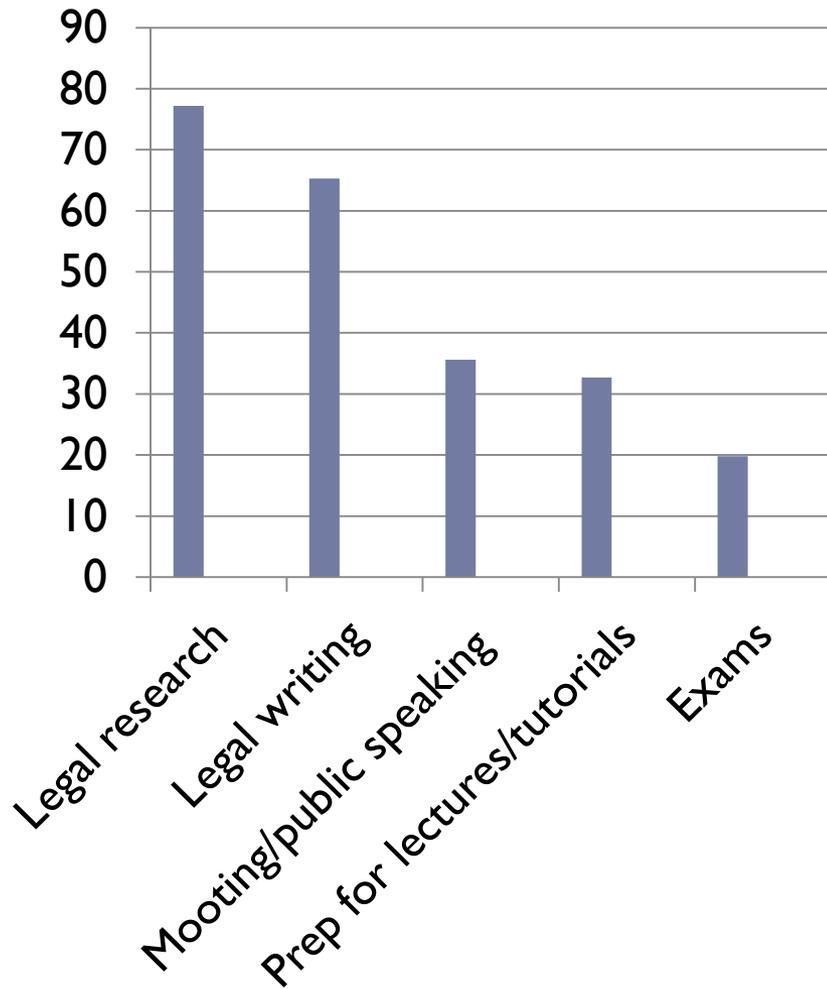
Align the legal skill with the right multimedia

- ▶ Students need to become deep learners of legal skills:
 - ▶ So...what they learn is meaningful and long-lasting
 - ▶ And they can apply to all their substantive law

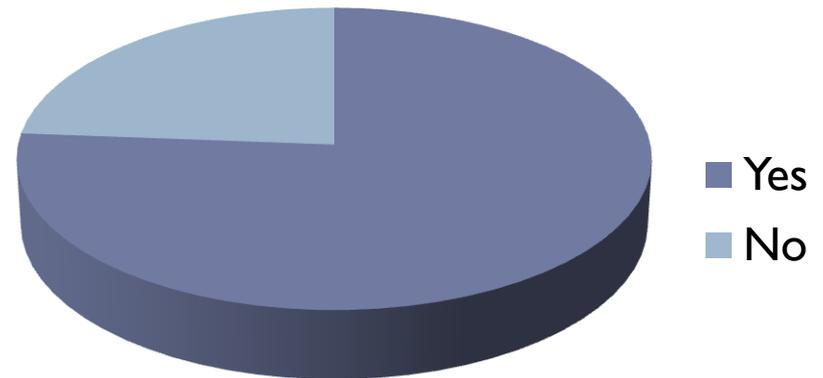
Important to
match the skill
with the resource



What do the students think?



Do multimedia resources enhance your learning experience?



Why does multimedia help?

- ▶ *I'm that type of learner/everyone learns by different methods – closes the learning gap*
- ▶ *More interesting medium*
- ▶ *Get the chance to watch it again*
- ▶ *More fun to work so I concentrate more/get us students working with a greater passion*
- ▶ *Makes it stick more in my mind/ideal for people who are more 'hands-on'*
- ▶ *Able to visually see things*
- ▶ *Variety of resources is refreshing, not dull and boring like a book*
- ▶ *Breaks up lectures/visuals can be beneficial from the daily monotonous lecturers talking*



What methods did we chose...

For:

- ▶ Legal research
- ▶ Legal writing
- ▶ Public speaking/mooting
- ▶ Exam skills



Peer learning

- ▶ 71% of LLB students surveyed - value mix of advice from lecturers and other students
- ▶ “Law professors’ personal stories about ‘*how I learned it*’ –somewhat meaningless and antiquated. ..Novice peers, are perfect mirrors to help each other reflect and regulate law student learning (Herndon, 2010)



“Felt inspired by reading about what others in our position have achieved”

LearnMore
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GET SOME EXPERIENCE

GET SOME EXPERIENCE!

After (surprisingly!) good performances in our end of first year exams, we were fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to join a dozen other students and undertake a one-week placement at **Allen & Overy LLP**, one of the largest and most well-respected law firms in the world.

It was a daunting feeling walking into the Allen & Overy world and to be a small fish in such a large sea: getting lost in the corporate maze that is the **A&O Bishops Square Office** seemed inevitable. However – and we both reiterated this – everyone went out of their way to make us comfortable. Part of that is the imbedded ‘friendliness’: everyone was happy to talk to us about their job. The firm isn’t hierarchically-minded which means we weren’t at any point patronised and the ‘open door’ policy has made us all feel very comfortable and at ease. On our part - given that we were essentially on the bottom rung of the ladder - we made a real effort to interact and network, which really made us feel like a cog in the wheel while we were there.

We were both somewhat concerned we’d spend the time doing activities like photocopying, making coffee etc; those tasks perhaps incorporated into the urban myth of such experiences. It was refreshing to get our teeth into some of the ‘meatier’ work that A&O does: big clients, big deals, big money. We were assigned trainers who delegated work to us and, where necessary, explained it through, meaning we have a much fuller understanding of what a firm like A&O does on a day-to-day basis.

‘Sponge’ was our keyword: we were happy to soak up any advice, information or suggestions we received. So we tried our best to sharpen up several important skills. We took part in a presentation game, where we were instructed to present to a group of other students, members from the Graduate Recruitment Team and one partner about particular A&O Departments. It required both real diligence in investigating what the firm did and how it did it, as well as stylishly presenting your findings. This was all the more tricky given tight time restrictions: in that sense the Mooting we had done in LLB1 proved invaluable. Furthermore, a negotiation game was a new and eye-opening experience (and even quite heated at times!), but some of those skills we’ve managed to incorporate into our daily lives.

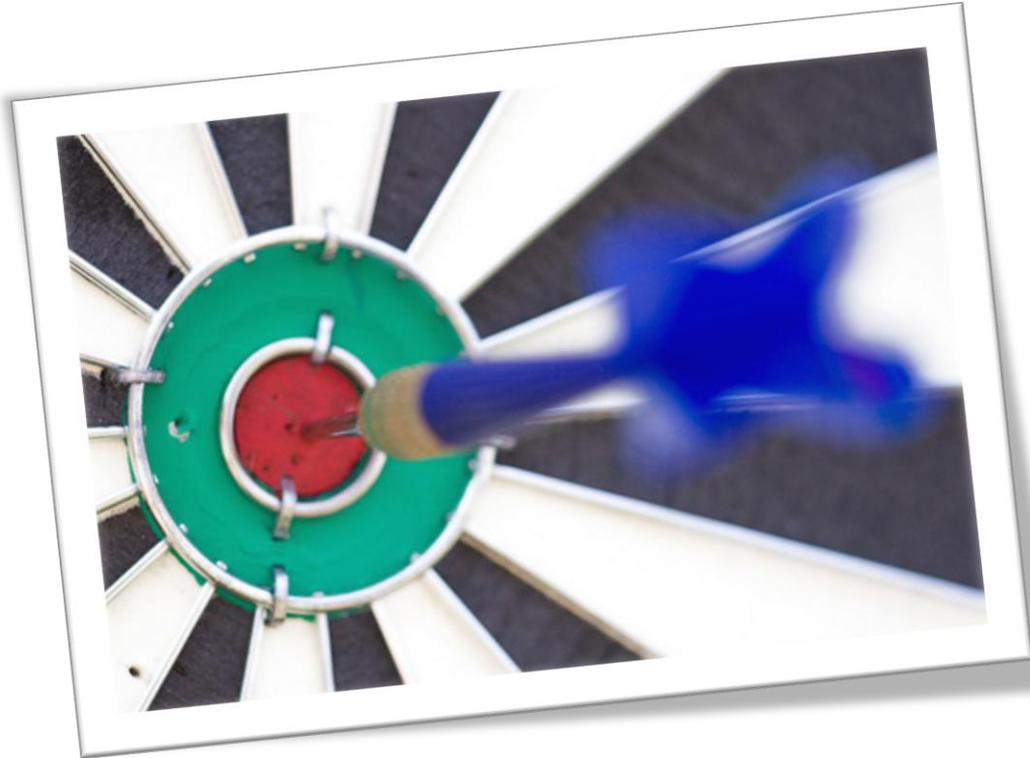
Do we look like we belong here? Course we do!

Thank you

http://learnmore.lawbore.net/index.php/Get_Some_Experience...

Internet

Better and targeted research



- ▶ Search engine holding all the answers?
- ▶ Surface learning
- ▶ Internet stealing away our capacity to concentrate
- ▶ Spence (2004) *'we're on the web all the time. We can find the information we need'*



Research on Learnmore



Promoting independent learning & adding value



- ▶ Improving academic confidence
- ▶ Supporting students to help themselves
- ▶ Too much at the beginning of their academic life?
- ▶ Sink or swim approach doesn't work
- ▶ Browne report



Questions?



Thanks for the images!

(via CC licence www.flickr.com)

- ▶ Slide 3 – ‘put your hand up if you're having a good time’ by vern http://www.flickr.com/photos/mic_n_2_sugars/564570276/
 - ▶ Slide 5 – ‘new headphones’ by Dave Makes <http://www.flickr.com/photos/buriednexttoyou/3286761072/>
 - ▶ Slide 7 – ‘come with me’ by @sammie <http://www.flickr.com/photos/and-i-love-it/4801703259/>
 - ▶ Slide 11 – ‘tape measure’ by Leo Reynolds <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lwr/28247077/>
 - ▶ Slide 14 – ‘1/365 [dazed and confused]’ PhotoJonny <http://www.flickr.com/photos/photojonny/2268845904/>
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 - ▶ Slide 17 – ‘On Target’ by viZZZual.com <http://www.flickr.com/photos/vizzual-dot-com/2655969483/>
 - ▶ Slide 19 – ‘Project 365 - Day 151 - 04/12/08’ Peter Gerdes <http://www.flickr.com/photos/petergerdes/3081937177/>
 - ▶ Slide 20 – ‘Questions?’ by Marcus Ramberg <http://www.flickr.com/photos/marcusramberg/185508448/>
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