Introduce yourself, and answer two:

- Of all the places you have lived/visited, what was the one you like the best? Why?
- What was your favorite book growing up?
- If you were a superhero, what would your super-name be? What would your superpower be?
Goals of the Course

• How to get started.
• How to plan your research.
• How to evaluate information.
• How to be efficient and effective.
• How information is organized.
Course Web Page(s)

Web:
http://personal.law.miami.edu/rschard

TWEN:
http://lawschool.westlaw.com
Guidelines for the Course

• What to bring to class
• Course Description & Requirements
Research Guide

Issue selected by September 5th.

Other parts also submitted during the semester.
Research Guide Evaluation

• Quality of the resources selected
• Evaluation of the particular source
• Organization and strategy recommended
• Searches and other efficient techniques

Please note that the number of pages and quantity of work are not part of the evaluation.
What Lawyers Do

Lawyers advise and represent individuals, businesses, or government agencies on disputes.

Duties

Lawyers typically do the following:

- Advise and represent clients in court
- Communicate with their clients and the public.
- Conduct research and analysis of legal problems.
- Interpret laws, rulings, and regulations for individuals and businesses.
- Present facts in writing or verbally to their clients or others and argue on their behalf.
- Prepare and file legal documents, such as lawsuits.
- Conduct research and analysis of legal problems.
- Conduct research and analysis of the intent of laws and judicial decisions and apply the laws to the specific circumstances that their clients face.

Lawyers, also called attorneys, act as both advocates and experts. As advocates, they represent one of the parties in criminal and civil trials by presenting evidence and arguing in court to support their client.

As advisors, lawyers counsel their clients about their legal rights and obligations and suggest courses of action in business and personal matters. All attorneys research the intent of laws and judicial decisions and apply the laws to the specific circumstances that their clients face.

To prepare for cases more efficiently, lawyers increasingly use the Internet, online legal databases, and virtual law libraries. Conducting research and preparing or reviewing documents.

Criminal law attorneys are also known as prosecutors or defense attorneys. Prosecutors work for the government to file a lawsuit, or charge, against an individual or corporation accused of violating the law.

Defense attorneys work for either individuals or the government (as public defenders) to represent, or defend, the accused.
The Ideal Law School Graduate? A ‘People Person’ Who Can Do Research

Employers, particularly those with more years in practice, rely on new attorneys to be research experts. The employers in our focus groups have high expectations when it comes to new hires’ research skills, i.e., “[t]hey should be able to adequately and effectively find everything that’s up to the minute.”

By Jacob Gershman

Being a research expert also means knowing how to scour books, not just websites, the paper said. “Statutes, treatises and encyclopedias, and desk books are the sources employers still use in paper form. For this reason, new attorneys may want to be familiar

But for law school graduates entering the workforce, it’s the softer skills, like work ethic, collegiality and a sense of individual responsibility, that really impress legal employers, according to a new study.
Poll
How much time do you expect to spend researching as an associate?
A. Less than 5 hours per week
B. More than 10 hours per week
C. None
Poll

Do you believe that research skills should be tested on the State Bar Exam?

A. Yes
B. No
• What can you take away from the Research Standards?
• Principles I and II
• Which competencies are the most difficult to learn, which the easiest?
• Which ones are unclear?
Where to Begin
Library web page:
http://www.law.miami.edu/library/
Where to Begin

Library catalog: http://search.law.miami.edu
Where to Begin

Subscription Databases:
http://www.law.miami.edu/iml/library/list-of-subscription-databases