

1st Semester Assessment Questionnaire – Qualitative comments

2. If you selected photo/essay, what were your reasons for choosing photo/essay instead of Tutorial 6 legal analysis?

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Interesting	Interesting, fun	10	I find the assessment special and interesting, it provided me space for creativity.
Creative	Creativity, imagination	8	More room for creativity & not assessed by rigid marking criteria (which I think should be abolished)
Daily-life related		7	Photo essay can allow me to have more observation to our everyday world.
Flexible	Frame my own topic, choose own topic	6	It seems easier that I can frame my own topic and relevant tort law topic.
Easier	Easier, tutorial 6 too difficult	4	I do not quite understand the legal issues and arguments behind the tutorial 6 legal analysis and I have no confidence in it.
Knowledge application		3	Provides legal analysis utilizing the knowledge I have learnt regarding Tort law this semester.
Time issue		3	Because tutorial 6 question had not yet released when I wanted to complete the essay beforehand. Can be quickly done. More time to prepare and writing the essay.
Thought provoking		2	It can trigger the thinking process.
Challenging		1	It is more challenging for me to do the photo/essay instead.
	total count	44	

3. If you selected Tutorial 6 legal analysis, what were your reasons for choosing Tutorial 6 legal analysis instead of photo/essay?

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Prepare for exam	Similar form, revision of knowledge, get familiar with exam	22	Want to have an assessed practice opportunity in the format similar to the exam and feedback
Trouble with photo	time consuming to take a photo, no proper photo, not much issues raised from the photo	18	I did not take good and clear photos of the occurrence of accident or the aftermath for me to do the photo/essay.
Easier	Convenient, easy, straightforward, practical, more familiar	18	It seemed a little more straightforward, given that there were specific topics that were outlined in the question.
Clearer guideline and requirement	know what is required, clearer instructions, clear grading criteria	9	I know what I am required to do more clearly

Photo/essay too difficult	Cant find proper issue, challenging	6	The photo is rather difficult to get a comprehensive view on how it could apply in Hong Kong.
Time issue	save time, done quickly	4	I can prepare for the tutorial as well so it saves time.
Prefer chosen topics		2	I prefer to work on a question given to me.
Not creative		1	I am not a creative person.
	total count	80	

4. Do you think the photo/essay is an effective learning aid for HKU law students? Why or why not?

Yes

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Observant	Observant, aware, surrounding, daily life	15	It encourages daily observation, law is within our lives and students should learn to apply the law into daily lives.
Application	Apply,	8	Because it helps us in applying tort concepts in life and strengthen the understanding.
Independent learning	On our own, look for relevant legal issues	4	Because I can think of some possible tort issues by myself and I have to flip over my book to find our some relevant situations.
Knowledge consolidation	In-depth analysis, strengthen the understanding	3	I believe it could be more open-ended for students to look for relevant legal issues and provide in-depth analysis based on our own observation so it helps to consolidate the knowledge we have learnt in lessons.
	total count	30	

No

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Not clear criteria		1	No because we don't know what makes a good photo essay
	total count	1	

6. What do you think are the main differences between this and other forms of assessed works you have done before?

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Creativity	Creativity, imagination, originality	9	I am given opportunities to show my creativity
Flexibility	Free, flexible, not formatted, autonomy	9	It's more lively and more flexible.
Interesting	Interesting, fun	6	it makes me more interested in doing it
Explorations	More possible answers, more issues,	3	It is not just a mere data-based question which may have a certain form or framework of answers so there could be a wide range of possible answers and it is more like legal research and analysis rather than answering

			questions.
Daily-life related		2	it requires our active participation in our daily lives
Less stressful		2	he weighting is not too high and if we did it bad, weighting can be shifted to the exam, making it less stressful.
Thought-provoking		2	We are motivated to observe and think about what we have learned all the time.
Analytical		2	It gave us an opportunity to be creative and analytical at the same time.
	total count	35	

7. What legal skills would you have applied and developed by doing the photo/essay compared to other forms of assessed work you have done?

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Research		9	And relevant cases regarding to the situation could be researched to support my legal analysis.
Practical		7	Doing the photo essay encouraged me to assess situations from a practical perspective rather than to blindly follow the textbook formula for solving legal problems.
Identifying issues		3	Identifying the issues. You need to choose photos that could probably lead to tort actions if something occurred. Therefore, you need to use your imagination of what might be the issues when the matters go to the court.
Writing		3	I applied my legal writing skills and skills to finding the right case.
Observation		2	To make more observations to our daily life.
Thinking skills	Innovative thinking, multi-perspectives	2	To think of many possibilities arising from a particular simple situation
	total count	26	

8. Do you think the skills you have mentioned above would stay with you after the Tort law course? Explain.

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Practical instead of theoretical		6	Yes, as I learn to apply the law in daily life instead of merely having them stay in textbooks.
Applicable in other areas		5	Of course, since the skills can be applied to all law courses.
Awareness established		5	I think so, because now the issues just naturally come to my mind when I see some dangerous things on the street
Daily-life related		2	Yes, because it's quite remarkable when its applicable in a place I have been to.

	total count	18	
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9. Has the photo/essay in any way changed the way you think about law (e.g. in terms of ‘looking’ at, ‘thinking’ or ‘doing’ law related work)?

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Law being practical and not distant from life		12	Law related work is not limited in textbooks or ordinance but also in our daily lives.
Be attentive to daily life		4	I started to observe how everyday events and common practices may potentially become a legal issue, or even giving rise to a new area of in, say tort law.
Being aware of law issues		3	I have to understand well about each case fact before drawing any conclusion.
Taking multi-perspectives		1	Different people do have different views regarding the legal issues.
	total count	20	

10. Would you recommend this type of assignments/assessments to a colleague? Why or why not?

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Interesting/Enjoyable	Conventional ones are daunting, fun, interesting	11	It's like a magical moment when you found yourself can be able to point out the existing problem which was not revealed by anyone else. You would be more confident and bold to point out issues at play.
Applicable	Beneficial, useful	5	yes, because students can apply law concept in a better way.
Being creative		3	Absolutely -- it encourages you to be "creative with reasons".
Low pressure	Not hard, reduce pressure	2	I think it can reduce the pressure of the students because we are already facing a lot of problem questions in our tutorials and other courses' assignments
Consolidating knowledge		1	Yes because it helps us to consolidate our knowledge while digging deep in relevant legal issues and principles.
	total count	22	

11. What advice would you give Rick for improvement of the photo/essay assignment?

Theme	Keywords	Frequency	Examples
Samples of more detailed guidelines		6	May give more guidelines for students as it seems that many of us didn't choose photo essay because they are not sure what to do. The assignment could be given after all the topics of Semester One were taught.
Increase work limit		5	An extension in the word limit. I wish to do a more in-depth analysis, but the word limit did not allow me to.
Perfect		3	Professor, it is not only an assessment, but also a self-learning process. I have never met a great teacher like you before.
Feedback to be provided		2	Perhaps the essay could be discussed in tutorials with presentation such that students could think about the issues and discuss among ourselves to have a wider range of understanding over tort law issues. The tutor could also provide us suggestions and further thoughts over the essay we have prepared.
Increase the number of pictures to be used		2	Number of photos can be more as it helps in describing the situation
Other alternatives	Video/essay, a series of photo/essays	2	Perhaps we could write a series of photo essays, just like the RMDs. I definitely wanted to write more than just one!
Reduce the HK context part		1	The HK context part should be reduced or deleted Because the marking weighing puts 30% on the HK story, it tempts us to devote around 1/3 of the words into discussing the social context part (or if not, stipulate the number of words expected for that part, so we will not put too many words on that section)
Duly warning of potential risks		1	Duly warn the students of possible dangers which may arise from taking a photo.
Mandatory		1	Make it mandatory!
Assignments to be given after all topics are covered		1	The assignment could be given after all the topics of Semester One were taught.
	total count	24	