Appendix A

The Plog

Brainstorm search terms for the topic and word search methods. Take those terms into the research process.

**Topic Method**
- Cause of action
- General area of law

**Word Method**
- Parties
- Places and things
- Defenses
- Relief

**Background Research:** Objective: (1) Gain overview of law (2) Find primary authority.
To find best sources, use Cooley Research Guides, CoolCat, or Nexis.
If you started with a statute or a case, go to this part if you're lost.

**Codified Law:** Objective: Find all statutes, ordinances, regulations, and court rules that apply.
If you start with a statute, use the annotations to find other on-point authority.

**Binding Precedent:** Objective: Find similar caselaw that binds your court.
If you start here, use the headnotes and topics and key numbers to find more authority.

**Persuasive Precedent:** Objective: Find caselaw from foreign courts that binds your court. If you start here, use the headnotes and topics and key numbers to find more.