PL100 Suggested Topics

This list is a general list of most of the topics that are covered in your text, although a few are added that are not specifically covered. Consider that you will be working and living in a specific state or area. It is sometimes helpful with some topics to focus on your local state or county in your research. You can also consider doing your project on a particular trial or case that is of interest to you, or a specific aspect of interest within the legal field that appeals to you. Be sure to check with your instructor on your topic choice, especially if you have decided to make a change in your topic.

The Categories of Law
- Historical Origins of Law
- Court Procedures for Civil or Criminal Law
  - Differences
  - In your state
- The US Constitution
- State Constitution – History in your state
- Legislative structure in your State
- Amendments to the Constitution
  - Any one of them in depth
  - History of the Amendments
- Bill of Rights – any aspect
- Powers of the Federal Government
- Powers of State Government
- Statutory Law – how enacted, how organized in your state
- Case Law – any aspect
- Court system – how organized in your state, history
- Supreme Court – any aspect
- Judicial System
- Jury System
- Jury Selection
- Paralegals – any aspect
- Jobs in the Criminal Justice system – any
- Professional Organizations in Legal Field
- Ethics in your Chosen Profession, any aspect
- Ethics – How are violations handled by your state Bar Associations?
- Major Sources of Law for Legal Research
- How to Brief a Case – elements
- Civil Rights
- The ACLU, other rights organizations
- Affirmative Action
- Death Penalty
- Voting rights
- Due Process,
- Equal Protection
- EEOC
- Tort Law
- Intentional Torts
- Elements of a Tort
- Workers Compensation
- Business Torts
- Property Torts
- Intellectual Property

Negligence
- Contract Law
- Strict Liability
- Consumer Law
- Product Liability
- Defective Products
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
  - Premarital/Post-marital Agreements
  - Divorce
  - Child Custody
  - Community Property
- Wills, Trusts, Estates, Probate
- Contracts – Elements, Remedies for Breach
- UCC – Uniform Commercial Code
- Real Property
- Employment Law
- Breach of Employment Contracts
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
  - Arbitration
  - Mediation
  - Negotiation
- Landlord/Tenant Law
- Patent Law
- Trademarks, Trade Secrets
- Consumer Protection
- Bankruptcy Law
- Business Organizations - Types
- Business Regulation
- Corporate Law
  - Agency Law
  - Types of Corporate Law
- General Partnerships v Limited Partnerships
- Sole Proprietorship
- How to Establish a Business or Corporation in your State
- Types of Businesses
- Regulation of Business
- Civil Procedure
  - In general before trial
  - Post-trial Procedures
  - Service of Process – how it works in your state
  - Jurisdiction
  - Discovery
  - Motions
- Criminal Practice – Explore this topic in your State
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Criminal Law
- Crimes – Federal, State
- Defenses to Crimes
- Felony vs. Misdemeanors
- Criminal Statutes in your State
- Plea Choices for Defendants
- Criminal Investigation/Investigators
- Arson – Arson Investigation
- Victim Assistance Program
- Arson-Arson Investigation

Juvenile Law
- Criminal Procedure – any aspect

Criminal Justice
- Careers (Probation Officer, etc.)
- Prison systems
- Jails
- Penalties
- History
- Investigation
- Police
- Arrest
- Bail management

Rules of Evidence
Trials
- Procedures and participants
- Criminal v Civil
- Jury Instructions

Legal Aid – Community Law Projects