How to Choose a Topic

- Sources for topic ideas include:
  - recent High Court decisions,
  - recent Supreme Court appeal decisions,
  - recent journal articles and case notes,
  - law firm newsletters or bulletins (on their websites),
  - practitioners,
  - old class notes, and
  - projects in the law school or other university departments.

- Remember that you need a thesis, not just a topic.

- Think about how you can develop your argument in terms of headings or chapters. Your plan can change, but an outline will help you test the suitability of your topic and help keep your research on track.

Relationship with your Supervisor

- Make an appointment to discuss your thesis and potential supervision as soon as possible.

- Remember that your proposal must be endorsed by your supervisor.

- Every supervisor has his or her own style of guiding an honours student. Ask your supervisor how often they want to meet with you, when they expect you to submit your first draft, etc. Try to come up with a plan that will suit your work style as well.

- Get your first draft in early! Your supervisor will be more likely to suggest substantial changes to improve your thesis when he or she knows you have the time left to make these changes.

- Respect your supervisor’s time commitments both in arranging meetings and in submitting drafts to be reviewed. Appreciate that your supervisor’s contribution to the process of writing your thesis is invaluable and voluntarily given.

General Tips

- Read previous honours theses or journal articles of a similar length to get an idea of how much breadth and depth 12,000 words affords a topic.

- Writing a thesis is a solitary and completely absorbing endeavour. Even with friends and your supervisor to discuss ideas, this experience will come down to you researching and then writing and writing and writing.