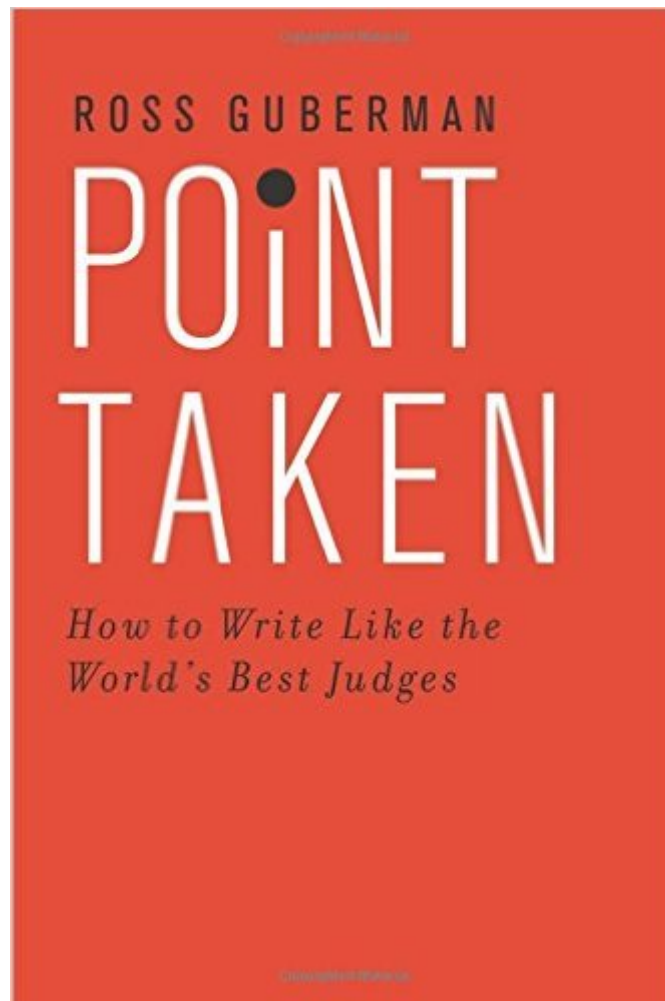


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# Point Taken: How To Write Like The World's Best Judges



## Synopsis

In *Point Taken*, Ross Guberman delves into the work of the best judicial opinion-writers and offers a step-by-step method based on practical and provocative examples. Featuring numerous cases and opinions from 34 esteemed judges - from Learned Hand to Antonin Scalia - *Point Taken*, explores what it takes to turn "great judicial writing" into "great writing". Guberman provides a system for crafting effective and efficient openings to set the stage, covering the pros and cons of whether to resolve legal issues up front and whether to sacrifice taut syllogistic openings in the name of richness and nuance. Guberman offers strategies for pruning clutter, adding background, emphasizing key points, adopting a narrative voice, and guiding the reader through visual cues. The structure and flow of the legal analysis is targeted through a host of techniques for organizing the discussion at the macro level, using headings, marshaling authorities, including or avoiding footnotes, and finessing transitions. Guberman shares his style "Must Haves", a bounty of edits at the word and sentence level that add punch and interest, and that make opinions more vivid, varied, confident, and enjoyable. He also outlines his style "Nice to Haves", metaphors, similes, examples, analogies, allusions, and rhetorical figures. Finally, he addresses the thorny problem of dissents, extracting the best practices for dissents based on facts, doctrine, or policy. The appendix provides a helpful checklist of practice pointers along with biographies of the 34 featured judges.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It's no secret that I'm a fan of Ross Guberman's work. I reviewed his first book, *Point Made: How to Write Like the Nation's Top Advocates* I still think it's probably the best legal writing book out there. If you're looking to improve your writing, it's worth owning. "

regardless whether youâ™re a lawyer or not. Now, Guberman has a new book out, *Point Taken* â€“ *How To Write Like The Worldâ™s Best Judges*. Just as *Point Made* was an instruction manual on writing briefs for lawyers, *Point Taken* is an instruction manual on writing opinions for judges. While Iâ™m no judge, and unlikely to ever be one, I still found the book to be informative and helpful, just as with Gubermanâ™s previous work. *Point Taken* follows a similar format to *Point Made* â€“ as opposed to merely telling the reader how to write well â€“ it shows them with numerous examples taken from some of the most well written opinions in history and today. Then, Guberman breaks down the examples and offers tactical advice for applying the techniques to oneâ™s own writing. The first half of the book is devoted to technicalities of crafting the opening of an opinion, the facts, and the legal analysis. The second half of the book is devoted to â€œstyle.â€• Parallelism, types of transitions, rhetorical devices, analogies, and more are all covered. Guberman then goes on to break down various techniques used to craft a memorable facts section of an opinion, using examples from the opinions listed. Just as with *Point Made*, the reader is exposed to many opinions they would have likely never have read. The quality of writing on display is excellent and varied. The lessons given can help any writer â€“ whether judge, lawyers, or layperson. Improving your writing is of paramount importance. Writing is thinking.

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