In recent years there has been an explosion of new companies in the legal technology space, all aiming to create products that improve the practice and/or business of law. It is imperative that law schools teach tomorrow’s attorneys not just how to use current tools, but also how to evaluate them.

Below is a proposed framework. It aims to provide a concrete and systematic way for students to think about and evaluate new technology. The framework centers on evaluation of the new tool, analysis of and comparison of the new tool to current solutions, and assessment of the cost factors associated with adoption.

Framework

1. Evaluation
2. Current Solutions
3. Cost of Adoption

**Step 1: Evaluation**
Evaluation means looking under the hood of the new product or tool in an attempt to fully understand exactly what it does. Depending on the firm’s size, this step may be done by the firm’s librarians, but nonetheless, students must be equipped and able to decide whether the new product or tool can assist and better their practice.

Questions

- What is the value proposition to the lawyer, and to the client?
- What exactly does the new product or tool claim to do?
- What problem(s) does it claim to address or solve?
- Is this a completely new concept or solution?
- Is this a full replacement, addition, or supplement to traditional or current methods?
- Is the new product or tool fully developed or still being iterated on?
- What kind of support is available if assistance is needed?

**Step 2: Current Solutions**
After gaining a basic understanding of the new product, it is important to then turn to the traditional methods and current solutions available and compare and contrast them with the new tool. Performing a side-by-side comparison is ideal.
Questions

- What is the traditional model, method, or tool that the product is claiming to improve, supplement, disrupt, etc.?
- How does the new product or tool compare to the traditional or current solution?
- What are the pros and cons of the new product or tool compared to traditional methods or current solutions?
- Are there any limitations with the traditional tool? Does the new tool solve this? Does the new tool have its own limitations?
- Is there anything in the traditional tool that cannot be replicated?

**Step 3: Cost of Adoption**

Lastly, the cost of adoption should be assessed. Cost of adoption includes whether there are any barriers to the use or implementation of the new tool and what, if any, are the switching costs. Switching costs often include price and time, but can include other factors depending on the individual and their practice.

Questions:

- Are there any barriers to using or implementing this new product or tool?
- Are there any switching costs? If so, at what threshold is it worth it to switch?
- Is there a cost to not adopting the new product or tool?

Below is a sample assignment to illustrate the above framework.

**Assignment #1: CARA** (Casetext’s AI-backed legal research assistant)

**Background**

Casetext is a legal research database that leverages artificial intelligence and data science to provide an intuitive and efficient legal research experience. Casetext’s premier research tool is called CARA, which is an acronym for Case Analysis Research Assistant. To use CARA, simply upload any document with citations into the secure platform and CARA will provide a list of relevant resources, including cases not cited in your inputted document. Other relevant resources include example federal briefs, analyses from practicing attorneys, and a table of authorities of the uploaded document with case summaries.

Traditionally, a search begins with a query in the form of a keyword, citation, title, boolean, etc. and casts a wide net across a database with the user narrowing and filtering their results. By starting with a document, CARA provides a new, more efficient way to search. Examples of CARA use cases in practice include, but are not limited to: 1) uploading a filing from opposing counsel *i.e.* as a motion for summary judgment to see what cases were left out that may help your argument, 2) double checking your work to make sure that you did not miss or overlook a
case, and 3) looking for additional authority to support your argument when you already have a handful of key cases.

CARA is included in Casetext’s Research Suite of legal research tools. An individual subscription costs $139/month or $129/month annually for unlimited access. Firm subscriptions are also available. Casetext offers all users a free, unlimited 7-day trial.  
https://casetext.com/pricing

*All law students, staff, and faculty have free, unlimited access to Casetext’s Research Suite, including CARA.

Assignment
Each student signs up for their free Casetext account. They then run a document with citations that they are familiar with through CARA and evaluate the results.

Questions: Students should answer these questions on their own and be prepared for a class discussion.

- What is the value proposition to the lawyer, and to the client?
- What exactly does CARA claim to do?
- Is CARA a completely new concept or solution?
- Is CARA a full replacement, addition, or supplement to traditional or current methods?
- Is CARA fully developed or still being iterated on?
- What is the traditional model, method, or tool that CARA is claiming to improve, supplement, disrupt, etc.?
- How does CARA compare to the traditional or current solutions?
- What are the pros and cons of CARA compared to traditional methods or current solutions?
- Are there any barriers to using or implementing CARA?
- Are there any switching costs? If so, at what threshold is it worth it to switch?

*If possible, it may be beneficial to have a representative from the company perform a demo for the class of the product or tool being evaluated prior to the class discussion. This provides the opportunity to potentially gain more insights into the product and ask questions.