

# Case Summary Assignment

This assignment is designed to both introduce the skill of reading and briefing cases for each student as well as to provide a service to the class.

**Instructions:** Students will sign up for a case, which they will brief and present to the class on the assigned day. The text of the case will be provided to the student. The student is to read the case (probably more than once) and synthesize the case into the format provided below. You are summarizing what the justices said in the case and not giving your analysis of the decision. The brief (1-3 pages) will be due on the day of the student presentation. *The presenting student should bring copies (about 18) for every student in the class.* In addition, the student will provide a brief oral summary of their case to the class when the topic of the case is being discussed. This presentation should provide a little information on each element of the case brief below. An example will be provided to you in class.

**Elements of a Case Brief:**

Element of Case Brief	Description
<b>1. What is the CASE NAME and what is the CITATION?</b>	This includes the names of the principal litigants ( <b>the parties of the case</b> ), followed by the volume <b>number</b> , reporter <b>name</b> , and page <b>number</b> on which the case begins. In parentheses, identify the court and the year of the decision. <b>[An example of the case name and citation is: <i>Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education</i>, 526 U.S. 629 (1999).]</b>
<b>2. What are the FACTS of the case?</b>	State the essential facts leading to the controversy. Be concise, including only relevant information. Please include what happened in the <b>lower courts [e.g., if your case is a U.S. Supreme Court case, what happened in the Circuit Court of Appeals and in the District Court?]</b> .
<b>3. What is the ISSUE that the court is deciding?</b>	State the issue or issues identified by the court in question form. Specify the provision of law that the court is interpreting (e.g., 14 <sup>th</sup> Amendment; IDEA).
<b>4. What did the court decide? What was the HOLDING of the case.</b>	Identify the court's response to the issue or issues involved (1-2 sentences).
<b>5. Why did the court rule this way? What was the court's RATIONALE?</b>	Explain the court's reasoning for its decision. On what legal grounds (e.g., Fourteenth Amendment Due Process Clause, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972) did the court base its opinion? Identify any judicially created tests (e.g., endorsement test under the Establishment Clause) that the court applied in reaching its decision. <i>This should be the longest, most detailed section of your summary.</i>